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Printed by the Times Newspapers Ltd. at the Times Building, 1, The Quadrant, London WC2N 2DX.
Printed on acid-free paper.
Subscription prices: £12.00 per annum in advance (UK only).
Single copies: 10p.
Advertising: 01-253 3000.



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NAB's first round

Two years ago the University Grants Committee's decision to distribute the much reduced university grant in a highly selective way provoked an enormous row, the reverberations of which have not yet died away. This autumn the National Advisory Body's attempt to reorder our endemically chaotic system of polytechnics and colleges will certainly provoke as big and as fierce a row.

However, there are important differences that need to be emphasized before misleading parallels are taken over completely. The first, and most important, is that in the case of the NAB the row will take place before any irrevocable decisions have been taken, while with the UGC it was the other way round. Second, the whole process will be open, uncomfortably so for the NAB in the short run but beneficially so for the polytechnics and colleges in the long run.

Third, the actual cuts that will have to be incorporated in the NAB planning exercise are rather less than those so suddenly and arbitrarily imposed on the universities two and a half years ago. Fourth, this is the first occasion on which any attempt has been made to subject the polytechnics and colleges to national planning, while the UGC in 1981 could depend on a growing tradition of *dirigisme* stretching back into the 1960s.

Fifth, the polytechnics and colleges make up a much more diverse sector of higher education than the universities. Polytechnics and the rest, full-time and part, initial and continuing education, are all kinds of difficult balances that the NAB must try to strike. Sixth, the NAB cannot fall back on some broad consensus about priorities, in contrast again with the UGC which could ultimately rely on bedrock agreement about university values after the historic, and occasionally hypocritical, protests had died down.

So the NAB this autumn is attempting a job that is both easier, because the cuts are less, and more difficult, because it has much less to go on, than the task undertaken by the UGC two years ago. At any rate it is very different. It is, of course, rough too early to make even a provisional judgment on the NAB's attempt, although the dim outline of what its officers are proposing can already be glimpsed. The student targets, and tentative pool allocations based on these targets, which have been notified to institutions this week, are simply proposals by the NAB's secretariat. They have not been endorsed by the board, let alone the committee.

This is the beginning of the NAB

game, not the end. We are at the start of a process of negotiation that very well may be bad-tempered but ultimately will be productive. There is time for mistakes to be corrected, for second thoughts, for appeals/protests to be heard before the final decisions have to be taken. Not only will all the players in the game have been educated to think hard and coherently about both principles and priorities for the non-university sector, but the detailed proposals will almost certainly have been modified and improved.

So it would be wrong to comment too soon and too categorically about what the NAB is trying to do. But three remarks can be justified. The first is that unit costs, however sophisticated, will never be enough. A sensible policy for the polytechnics and colleges will require qualitative judgments, in other words, both subjectivity and flexibility. The ceaseless sophistication of the calculation of unit costs may produce more sensitive answers, but not always more sensible ones.

This is not an argument for applying UGC-style informed prejudice to planning the polytechnics and colleges. But it is an argument for maintaining a margin for discretion (and discrimination), and not expecting all the decisions to be taken by some black box constructed by the Technical and Data Group. This is already informally recognized by the new well established practice of mitigating the full effects of applying a strict regime of unit costs, but this practice in turn provides the counter argument that it shows a lack of confidence in the technical work of those who are refining unit cost measurement in polytechnics and colleges.

If unit costs are seen as a necessary but not a sufficient condition for effective planning, there are two important implications. The first is that those who argue that the problems of higher education planning can be solved at a stroke by establishing a common scale of prices, for second-year economics students or graduates on the first year of a taught master's course, are pursuing a mirage. The second is that the NAB may have to find an alternative to the rather formal and edgy relationship it has established with the validating bodies this summer if it really wants to get at the quality of individual courses.

For this is essential as a counterweight to both the reductionism of unit costs on the one hand and broad-brush planning of regional balance and subject mix on the other.

The second, highly provisional remark is that the first outline of the NAB plan implies a relative shift away

from polytechnics and towards other institutions. Part of the reason no doubt is to curb the chaotic expansion of the past two years and protect the unit of the resource in the former; some polytechnics and their directors have clearly been taken at their word. Obviously there would have been undesirable to tolerate an uncontrolled erosion of standards in the polytechnics when the universities have embarked on an opposite policy.

But part of the reason must be that this shift is a distorted result of the NAB's determination to put more emphasis on part-time (and sub-degree) courses at the expense of full-time university-level courses. In strategic terms this is almost certainly the correct decision; but the tactics are likely to be very tricky. First, it amounts to a reversal of the strong trend to concentrate and segregate higher from other forms of post-school education, the process that produced the polytechnics with all their virtues and strengths. Second, it is one thing to switch the policy, it is another to change the practice.

The third remark is that the rules of the NAB's planning game need to be clarified. Mr John Bevan, the secretary of the NAB, points out in a letter on the previous page that the polytechnics have been allocated more students in the provisional plan than they proposed in their "bids", and that the other colleges have been allocated fewer. This comparison slides over the more relevant one that despite this the polytechnics' market share is to be cut, but let that pass.

Two practical points, however, do need to be emphasized. First, it is fair to describe answers to a hypothetical question about the likely response to cuts, reluctantly given in many cases as the refusal to state priorities clearly indicated, as "bids"? Already a revealing shuffle in the NAB's terminology planning seems to have occurred. Second, we have no proper means of judging the comparative responsibility of different "bids". It may be right to believe that we should provide for more part-time and sub-degree students, but is it a reasonable belief particularly in the context of a stubbornly persistent industrial depression?

It is still far too early for anyone to take up hard-and-fast positions of either support for or opposition to what the NAB is proposing. All that can safely be said is that the NAB process is at least to clear thinking about essential questions. Without it there would be nothing but myopic and expedient muddle.

History belongs to no one

In history, to oversimplify is always tempting but rarely admissible. For every occasion on which it sharpens truth through its dramatic effect, there are ten, or a hundred, occasions on which truth is distorted by dogma. So, although it is very tempting to see history itself as the next battle ground for our increasingly polarized society, it is a temptation that should be firmly resisted - for history's sake.

The temptation to set up some superficial dichotomy is obvious enough. On the right Sir Keith Joseph, who recently remarked about history in schools that one of its aims should be to understand the development of shared values which are a distinctive feature of British society and culture, is attacked and labelled by Lord (Hugh) Thomas, On the left the historians of the left loosely grouped round *History Workshop*, which hopes this autumn to establish a Centre for Social History in Oxford that aims to bring aid and comfort to a discipline and profession beleaguered by cuts and philistinism.

But it is obviously unfair to imply that the two sides are about to engage in a sharply focused ideological war for the hearts and minds of sixth formers and undergraduates. Sir Keith Joseph thinks a good deal more than most. Secretar-

ies of State, but on balance we should be grateful for that because the silence of his predecessors did not always indicate an absence of thought or an unwillingness to act from prejudice. Lord Thomas is far too good a historian not to know that British history is populated by Lollards, Lovelliers, and Ludlows as well as by kings and statesmen.

In any case the *History Workshop* group has broader and more permanent ambitions for its new centre than simply a short sharp strike with the new "patriotic" history of the Josephs and Thomases, even if this were a fair way to stigmatize the intentions of the latter. Their main target is not an abrasive counter-ideology to their own, however powerful its supposed sponsors, but a numbing philistinism that is the enemy of all liberal studies. Their fear is that the present attack on higher education is a commodity that is being sold in the most narrowly instrumental terms. Sir Keith may even share the same fear.

In the long run his obvious clash between the new "patriotic" history that seeks to emphasize the glory and distinctiveness of this British experiment and the now rather middle-aged

"radical" history with its preoccupations in popular experience, cultural diversity within Britain, and the world beyond Europe may be much less significant than the less dramatic debate about the survival of history (and English and many other humanities disciplines) as a subject of liberal study.

Of course, the two questions are connected. Sir Keith and his supporters may be seeking to sustain history as a suitable instrument for civic cultivation by trying to ensure that it projects an interpretation of the British experience that is expedient to our present leaders rather than faithful to the historical record. *History Workshop* may be trying to do the same thing, but by entirely contrary means, by substituting the new history of ordinary people for the old history of rulers. Professional historians may approve the latter more than the former but even it has its dangers. Interpretations of our past are bound to become embroiled in arguments about the present. But not to such an extent that we fall into the concealed belief that history is simply a quarry for missiles to be used in contemporary quarrels. History belongs to no one. If it does, it belongs to history.

Laurie Taylor



Morning Oh, hello.

Lovely to see you again. Really lovely.

Oh... yes. And... nice to see you.

Good summer? I do hope so. Yes. Very good. Thank you.

Where'd you get to? Anywhere exciting?

Well... erm...

No, do go on. I'd love to hear about it.

Really?

Very very much. Well, since you ask, for four weeks we had this absolutely amazing farmhouse in Tuscany.

That sounds idyllic. Oh it was. Stuck right out in the country, you know, but only twenty miles from Lucca.

What more could you ask? Quite.

I mean, not too crowded, but near enough to the main centres.

Yes, exactly. And with its own wonderful little vegetable garden. Big fat purple aubergines, and of course, zucchini... courgettes, you know.

My absolute favourites. Especially when lightly fried in proper Italian olive oil. Mmmmm. You sound as though you really struck lucky. I suppose we did.

Any photographs? I could bring some in tomorrow. If you're really interested.

Very. We could go through them slowly over lunch.

Right.

And then after Italy did you manage to get a few more days' relaxation before getting back to the grindstone?

Yes we did actually. Grabbed a fortnight in the Lakes.

What would be nicer? And a chance for some walking?

Yes. Even a bit of climbing. Nothing too serious. Langdale Pikes. That sort of thing.

But jolly adventurous all the same. And, my word, don't you look well on it? Positively glowing. Does that go all over?

Oh yes. Look.

My word.

And my back's even browner. There. And even further down. It can't be true.

There.

Gosh. Like a native.

But now what have you been up to lately? Greece? France? Or that old stamping ground of yours. Where?

Not quite.

Where then? Do tell me.

Actually, I stayed at home and wrote a little book on Recent Advances in Linguistic Theory. You did?

Yes indeed.

But you never. Quite so. Well, I think that's game, set and match to me. Just one other little thing.

The Times Higher Education Supplement

September 9, 1983 No 566 Price 50p

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NAB plan faces stormy passage

by John O'Leary and Patricia Santinelli

Major changes will be demanded in the National Advisory Body's plan for a redistribution of polytechnic and college places when its members are brought into the debate next month. But the objections will not necessarily affect the fate of the six colleges earmarked for closure or merger. The list includes Nonington, Hertfordshire and West Midlands colleges of higher education and Fleetwood Nautical College.

Another closure will be one of the inner London art schools. The NAB secretariat preference is for Rose Bruford to close, but the Inner London Education Authority is in the throes of its own review of higher education and is expected to make its own proposals.

Lecturers fight loss of tenure

Professor Randolph Quirk, vice chancellor of London University, has told his fellow vice chancellors that the merged Royal Holloway and Bedford College will have a redundancy clause in its statutes.

Lecturers are enraged by the statement which is in a long letter to the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals on London's reorganization plans.

The question remains open on what the new statutes and charter for the new college will say on tenure. The academic councils of the two colleges decided unanimously not to insert a redundancy clause. But then a joint working party proposed that there should be a redundancy clause for new staff who were not professors or readers.

The newly drawn up draft statutes say that subject to the University of London's regulations on readers and professors, the council can remove staff if it "finds it necessary to discontinue an appointment or reduce the number of staff attached to it". But these drafts have not been accepted yet by either college.

Dr Geoffrey Alderman, president of the Royal Holloway Association of University Teachers, and chair of the London AUT, has already told his members that if the draft statutes were not modified to remove the redundancy clause then they should frustrate the Bill's passage into law.

London will set up a working party this term to discuss college answers to questions put to them on tenure by Professor Quirk.

The University Grants Committee will also discuss London at its Oxford retreat later this month. Tenure will be examined by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals when it meets this month also.

A working party at York University has also recommended that "compelling reasons of financial exigency" should be a reason for dismissal.

Meanwhile the merger is having an effect on admissions. Applications are down at Bedford College because many students think the college is closing. In some subjects applications are down by 10-12 per cent and in some with very small intake they are down by half.

It is likely to ask for a revision of its total allocation for the art colleges. Hertfordshire College is expected to merge with Hatfield Polytechnic. West Midlands is left with initial teacher education courses not included in the exercise but is judged not to be viable after cuts in its diversified programme of degrees.

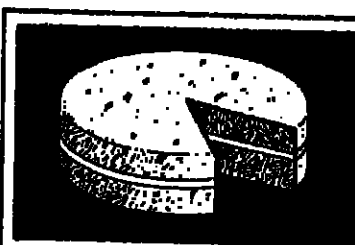
The colleges concerned all expect to launch vigorous campaigns for survival and can expect the support of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education on the NAB board. But the main political battle will be over the proposed new funding system which underpins the plan and over the feasibility of switching numbers to part-time courses.

The new funding system, which abolishes further funding is designed to take account of special costs in particular institutions and substitutes a new

on the response of institutions to a possible 10 per cent funding cut. Polytechnic directors are objecting to the characterization of their responses as "bids" and Dr Edwin Kerr, chief officer of the Council for National Academic Awards, also expressed doubts about their treatment.

Some members of the board, including officials from the Department of Education and Science, will question the feasibility of meeting the increased targets for part-time courses, which show a 7 per cent rise. And there will also be questions raised about the effects of the policy of switching provision away from the south-east in the light of the concentration of polytechnics there.

The new funding system, which abolishes further funding is designed to take account of special costs in particular institutions and substitutes a new



NAB 10% funding exercise

set of programme weightings, is the most likely victim of any backlash to the plan. It will encounter opposition on the committee of the NAB as well as at the board because of the way it diverts funds from the polytechnics to the colleges.

It would be the second successive

continued on page 3

Gloomy words from Sir Keith

by Ngagio Creguer

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, has told the University Grants Committee that should take a pessimistic view about future funding for the universities.

But the Government has no intention at present to review higher education expenditure, he says in a letter to Sir Edward Parkes, chairman of the UGC.

Sir Edward had asked Sir Keith if he could give the committee any guidance on future Government plans and hopes, which would help it when it began its next planning exercise. The UGC is about to start a new round of consultations with the universities to see the effect of restructuring and to help produce a new post-cuts long-term plan.

Sir Keith also suggests that the committee should pay particular attention to a number of topics. Chief of these will be the controversial issue of student numbers.

Sir Keith was put under strong pressure by the group of vice chancellors he met a couple of months ago for talks on privatization, to allow some flexibility in student number targets. The subject is also being examined by the UGC and Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals at their separate meetings this month.

Councillors rebel over transfers

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

Strathclyde regional councillors are defying their officials and opposing Government plans to take over Glasgow College of Technology.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has said he intends to transfer both Glasgow and Bell colleges of technology to direct Scottish Office Control, following the recommendations of the Scottish Council for Tertiary Education.

A report to councillors from Strathclyde's director of education, said that there was general agreement that degree level work, which is offered by Glasgow College, should be coordinated nationally. Therefore there were no strong grounds for opposing the Secretary of State's decision to make the college a central institution.

But the council's further education sub-committee has rejected the recommendation, saying it believes transfer would jeopardize links the college has established with other regional colleges.

There has already been conflict within Strathclyde, with both councillors and officials opposing the transfer of Bell College, Hamilton, which is principal, has written to Mr Younger saying staff favour the move.

The college council and the Glasgow College of Technology's students' association have rejected the Scottish Secretary's plans. Mr Bob McLean, the chairperson of the Scottish National Union of Students has warned that transferring Glasgow College could endanger more than 350 social science places.

There are hopes at Leith Nautical College, which Mr Younger intends to transfer from central control to Lothian Regional Council, that a decision on its future will be deferred until the end of the year.

Mr Younger was expected to visit the college last week, but his visit was cancelled because of a Privy Council meeting. A new date has been set for December and Dr Alan Watson, the principal, said it would be "gentlemanly" not to make a decision until then. A Scottish Office official said the decision to transfer the college had already been taken and negotiations would now take place.

Double boost for biotechnology from home and abroad

by David Dickson and Paul Flather

Biotechnology research received a double boost this week with separate announcements for a five-year British programme worth up to £1.4m and confirmation in Paris of the creation of an international network linking institutions engaged in research and training in the field.

The British programme will be funded by up to seven companies each putting up about £100,000, matched by grants from the Department of Trade and Industry as part of its long-term commitment to promoting biotechnology in industry.

The programme will be handled by the Institute for Biotechnological Studies formed after collaboration since 1982 between the Polytechnic of Central London, the University of Kent and

University College, London. The aim is to investigate generic problems associated with the extended use of biocatalysts under controlled conditions which will be of vital use to companies in several different areas of biotechnology. The hope is that companies will benefit from the whole research programme while providing a fraction of the overall cost.

So far four companies, Glaxo Group Research, May and Baker, Shell Research and Unilever, have joined the programme and there will be a six-month period during which up to three other companies could also join.

Professor Alan Bull of Kent, one of the institute's co-directors, said a firm five-year programme would allow researchers to approach the work with definite hopes of making considerable progress. "We would hope to have a

fairly complete jigsaw of cellular metabolism at the end."

The other co-directors are Professor Geoffrey Holt of PCL and Professor Malcolm Lilley of UCL. The institute has already given advice to the Government, industry and commerce and to international bodies.

The international network to be jointly supported by the French and British governments was officially launched in Paris on Monday by the French minister of industry and research M. Laurent Fabius.

The network, initially coordinated by a small secretariat based in Paris, is the first concrete result to emerge from the recommendations of a working group set up last year.

A joint initiative in biotechnology was endorsed by the heads of state of the seven leading industrialized nations when they met in Williamsburg,

Virginia, at the end of May.

The network will be steered by a committee chaired alternately by France and England. Also represented on the steering committee are Japan and Canada, and the European Community, West Germany and the United States, both of which have expressed caution about international cooperation in a field marked by fierce commercial competition, will attend meetings as observers.

Two main fields will be covered by the network. The first is to establish a network of institutions providing training courses in biotechnology, usually at the postgraduate level, and to act as a central information point about these courses.

The second will be to stimulate joint fundamental research projects between existing or future research institutions.

Oxford group gets it together

by Paul Flather

A group of academics based on Oxford University are setting out to redress economics to the "real problems of the world" away from increasing abstract theorizing, mathematical formulae, and claims of "objective science".

The six economists have formed an editorial board to supervise the publication by the Oxford University Press of a series of new books to be known as the *Library of Political Economy*.

The economists are Keith Griffin, president of Magdalen College, Roger Opie of New College, Andrew Graham of Balliol College, Hugh Stretton, reader in history at the University of Adelaide, Geoff Harcourt of Jesus College, Cambridge and Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The common principles of the new books are that politics and economics necessarily interact; that economic policy cannot be designed in isolation from the history, development, and institutions of the country in question; and that economic theory must be useful and illuminating, rather than simply "rigorous".

For Oxford economists, it will mark an important step in developing a common line of thinking. Largely

because academic appointments are left to individual colleges, Oxford economists have rarely produced "schools" of thought, unlike their counterparts at Cambridge where departments have the major say in appointments.

Cambridge currently boasts the Clare Group, described as SDP-style economists, the Cambridge Economic Policy Group headed by Wynne Godley, the Growth Project Group headed by Sir Richard Stone, and various Keynesian offshoots, one headed by Lord Kaldor and previously the late Joan Robinson, another by Frank Hahn and, until he left, Christopher Bliss.

The intellectual origins of the new Oxford group derive from the work of Thomas Balogh, David Worswick and Michael Kalecki, at the Oxford Institute of Economics and Statistics in the 1940s on how the postwar economy would develop.

Some might try to trace the origins back to the days of G. D. H. Cole, but Lord Balogh, an emeritus fellow at Balliol and perhaps Joseph Schumpeter, are the real inspirers. The series was first discussed in the late 1960s, but formalized in the late 1970s.

Lord Balogh's famous notion of the "social contract" in the 1970s epitomizes the aims of the group, to focus attention on questions like how the national income is distributed, what the relations are with trade unions, how economic growth is being shared.

"We are opposed to those who take a straight scientific view of the subject," Mr Graham, one of the board, said. "We think economics is more open-ended and that it is important to realize the assumptions involved as well as the predictions of models."

The group is also opposed to the use of highly mechanistic models, for example the perfect competition graphs every economics A level student learns first, just because they are mathematically convenient.

They would immediately dispute recent statements from Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, about teaching the "economic" facts of life. "These economic facts are nothing like as fixed as Sir Keith would like to believe," Mr Graham said.

Among the first books in the series to be published next month will be the *Political Economy of Nationalism* by Dudley Seers of Sussex University, which will set the tone, challenging the orthodoxies of Western and Marxist economics when analysing the role of nationalism.

Youth scheme is on target, says director

by Patricia Santinelli

The director of the Manpower Services Commission this week denied claims that the new Youth Training Scheme was not on target or that it was a "con".

Mr Geoffrey Holland answered criticisms made on BBC television that there had been a very slow build-up of places on the scheme.

He pointed out that 400,000 training places had now been approved and 250,000 of these were available and 250,000 of these were available at careers offices at the end of August. So far 90,000 entrants had been taken on to the YTS.

"This is the way we planned it," he said. The major entry to YTS is only expected this month, and so far we have had a first class response from everyone involved."

The figures released by Mr Holland are higher than the MSC's official ones which put the number of places approved at 80 per cent. The figure of 90,000 is an estimate based on doubling the number of entrants in July.

Mr Holland also refuted claims that most young people would not get jobs at the end of the scheme. He said that on the basis of the one-in-three placement rate for the Youth Opportunities Programme, a much higher proportion of YTS youngsters would get jobs. Employers would look to those who had been on the scheme as their main recruits.

He was replying to Mr David Ashton, senior lecturer at Leicester University, who said that the youth employment market was being squeezed both in the manufacturing and service sector and would not recover even if the recession ended.

Mr Ashton added that the YTS was not the answer to employment and that what was needed was a separate solution.

tion which would provide jobs. He suggested a policy for youth employment.

Mr Holland told representatives of the Arca Manpower Boards that the MSC was not in the business of creating people. "YTS will provide training, designed in the 1980s, for the 1980s, for young people who without this type of opportunity would experience great difficulty in getting a job and making a career for themselves. It should be the first choice and not the last resort of school-leavers," he said.

He added that the MSC was not just after places but also after quality. The commission would ensure quality through the already established network of approved managing agencies and a central professional group, plus the creation of posts for professional and qualified staff on a permanent basis or secondment.

● Youthaid, the national pressure group for young unemployed people, has asked the Secretary of State for Employment to guarantee the safety, training and education of young people on the YTS.

Mr Paul Lewis, the new director of Youthaid, has told Mr Norman Tebbit that complaints about the YTS from over the country reflected fears that education provision would be patchy and short of funds, that training was minimal and that safety standards were uncontrolled and poor.

Challenging the government today that the schemes conformed to its official guidelines, Mr Lewis called for more money for colleges, regular inspection of every scheme and monitoring of health and safety provisions.

Mr Alf Morris, for Manchester (Wythenshawe) has asked Mr Tebbit to allow disabled young people to join the YTS up to the age of 21.

Leader, back p. 10

Argentine book ban takes universities by surprise

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

There is increasing disquiet among academics over the Government ban on importing books from Argentina as part of its embargo on trade with the country.

The Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (Sconul) was alerted to the problem six weeks ago by Essex University which had several consignments of books ceased by Customs at Dover.

An official from Essex, a major centre for Latin American studies, said they had been unaware until told by Customs that import licences were needed for Argentine books, and that no licences were being granted at present. Institutions understood to be affected include St Andrews University, University College London, Portsmouth Polytechnic, the British Library, and the National Library of Scotland.

But Professor Donald Shaw, head of Edinburgh University's department of Hispanic studies, said there were often difficulties in obtaining texts, and universities might not yet know they had been affected by the ban.

Newspapers and periodicals have not been banned and Professor Shaw said it was a "grotesque paradox" that institutions could receive publishers' lists from Argentina but could not buy the books.

"It is also completely absurd that British banks are allowed to participate in a large loan to Argentina while we are not allowed to buy products," he said. "It was fundamental for every department of Spanish or Hispanic studies to teach some Argentine literature and history and it was ridiculous for the Government to support these departments but remove a necessary resource."

Dr Ann Matheson of the National Library of Scotland said books had arrived before, during and after the Falklands crisis, but consignments had been seized in July.

"We do not know and cannot discover what the fate of the books will be," she said. But there were fears that they might be burned.

Mr Anthony Loveday, secretary of Sconul standing committee on national and university libraries, said the committee had written to protest to Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education. Sir Keith and Lord Gower had simply not yet replied, Mr Channon had not yet replied.

"In most cases the books have already been paid for, and for affecting trade relations with Argentina are affecting our own public expenditure," Mr Loveday said.

Professor Nicholas Round, head of Hispanic studies at Glasgow University, added wryly: "Given the universities' present state, we're not going to restore the Argentine economy on the strength of our book budget."

Academics should be prepared to circumvent the ban by obtaining books through other channels, he said. "This is not an issue where there could be a case against the material concerned. It is not pornography, it is not violent racist."

Benney and which now forms a part of the so-called "university treasure" latterly by establishing the L. T. G. Clarke memorial prize.

"Inflation will in due course erode the value of the L. T. G. Clarke prize and the lodge will then, I hope, provide extra money."

"I hope the questioners at Council will not attempt to sour relations between the university and the lodge members who comprise staff, past and present students."

Society aims to challenge unilateralists

by Paul Flather

More than 50 academics are to meet at an inaugural conference next week to establish a society which will aim to put the case against unilateral nuclear disarmament in universities and polytechnics around the country.

Supporters of the society, provisionally named the Academic Council for Peace and Freedom, believe that the case for multilateral disarmament in its various forms has not been effectively presented in British academic circles.

The conference in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, next Wednesday, has been organized by Dr Roger Scruton, reader in philosophy at Birkbeck College, London, and Professor Regan, professor of politics at Nottingham University.

"We are aiming to raise the level of debate in universities and polytechnics," Professor Regan said. "We feel that up to the present it has been one-sided and simplistic. We are not at all sure the unilateralists should occupy the moral high ground on this issue."

The tragedy of the Korean airliner last week clearly gave cause for concern over the kind of foreign and defence policies pursued by the Soviet Union, Professor Regan said.

He stressed however that the society would aim to draw in a broad range of academics from different institutions and different disciplines including medicine, theology, and philosophy, as well as USSR and defence experts.

Invited speakers to next week's conference include Count Nikolai Tolstoy, the author, who will speak on Soviet oppression, Mr David Levy, senior lecturer in sociology at Middlesex Polytechnic, on Soviet ideology, and Professor Robert Jastrow, an American astronomer, on the Soviet Union, on defence matters.

The conference will elect a governing committee which in turn will plan a series of conferences and seminars on nuclear policy at institutions around the country. The society plans to debate the deeper moral and philosophical issues behind disarmament strategies, as well as defence questions.

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He called for talks on how to get rid of the scheme rather than how to improve it.

There was widespread relief among the teacher unions at the vote and the way the campaign to pull out of YTS had been checked. Mr Bill Keys, chairman of the TUC employment committee, warned that YTS would go ahead anyway if unions turned their backs on young people - but in an unmonitored way in non-union workplaces.

Deeply angered by the critics of TUC policy towards YTS, he said: "We know that the present horrendous level of youth unemployment means that many young people will have no other kind of chance than that through YTS. The MSC cannot make up for the shortcomings of government economic policy."

Moving the successful composite, Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said the trade union movement at all levels had to work to maximize opportunities and minimize the dangers. If the problems were not overcome, the commitment to involvement in the schemes would be reviewed "but at the present time this scheme still gives us great opportunities."

YTS will now be closely monitored with a report to the 1984 congress when continued support will be reviewed.

The unsuccessful demands by the National Graphical Association called for an immediate review of continued involvement. Ms Brenda Philbin, condemned the YTS as a "disgraceful con trick". Continued support made the TUC party to a fraud, for its young people would never forgive them, she said.

Mr Argyropoulos said although there had been no commitment by the minister, there was still a strong chance the role of developing adult and continuing education will fall on the Department of Education and Science.

Meanwhile, the National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education has indicated its willingness to take on a broader range of activities and will be a contender for ACACE's unemployment scheme, along with the Further Education Unit.

Both the institute and the department have been asked to put forward proposals, however, nothing specific has been announced yet. ACACE is to meet today to discuss further approaches to the minister and the council's future.

David Jobbins reports from the TUC in Blackpool

Restrained attack on NAB closures

A measured response to the college and course closures proposed by the National Advisory Body came at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool this week.

Even the normally acid-tongued Clive Jenkins, chairman of the TUC education committee, restricted his speech to outlining the statistical implications of the loss of 5,000 to 10,000 places in 1984.

"The polytechnic especially will suffer a major cut in places when the 18 to 21-year-old population is increasing and competition for college places is already fierce," he said. Britain was moving towards a position when only "an elite of exceptionally qualified and brilliant or wealthy young people" would be able to gain entry to higher education.

It was left to Mr Ray Grace of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education to add the human dimension. He told delegates that less orthodox students would face more severe competition to enter higher education - students like three he had recently taught, an unemployed person from Consett, an unemployed ship builder, and a retired headmistress of 70.

He stressed however that the society would aim to draw in a broad range of academics from different institutions and different disciplines including medicine, theology, and philosophy, as well as USSR and defence experts.

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Warwick fails to win seat

Despite appearing with the also-ran this year, the Association of University Teachers general secretary, Miss Diana Warwick is likely to try again for a seat on the TUC general council in 1984.

She polled 172,000 votes in the 29-way contest for the 11 reserve seats for unions with fewer than 100,000 members, achieving 23rd equal ranking with a candidate from the National Association of Licensed House Managers.

Ms Warwick successfully standing only four months after taking up the post, received no support from her opposite numbers in the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. Naïthe in common with other unions tended to support the sitting candidate.

But it seems a number of unions were persuaded to back her, possibly aware that other than the reserve seats, hers was the only way of electing a woman to the general council.

Former AUT general secretary Laurie Sapper's brother Alan, leader of the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians, kept his seat against all the odds. The result confounded the pundits who had expected a total purge of left-wingers like Mr Sapper and train drivers' leader Mr Ray Buckton.

Mr Smyth said: "It would be improper for me to comment on college procedures."

A spokesman for the college confirmed that the selection had been deferred.

ACACE still uncertain

Talks between officials of the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education and the Minister for Higher Education, Peter Brooke, last week failed to clear the air about the future of ACACE services.

"ACACE, which is to wind down in 'October after six years' work, had hoped for an assurance from the minister about what will take over its developmental role."

The consultant for ACACE, Dmitri Argyropoulos, said the meeting was "no more than an informal chat and an opportunity for ACACE officials to meet the new minister."

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News in Brief

Royal Society's £5m acid test

The Royal Society this week announced a £5m research programme funded initially by the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board to study the effects of acid rain on surface waters in Norway and Sweden and the damage done to fisheries.

The research will last at least five years and is to be undertaken in collaboration with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. It will not seek to establish how acid rain is created but the results will be published without restrictions.

A management committee has been set up to oversee the project, chaired by Sir Morris Sugden, vice president of the Royal Society. The programme director will be Sir John Mason.

Safety study

The Institution of Electrical Engineers has been awarded a Government grant of £10,000 to administer a study into the safety aspects of undergraduate engineering courses.

The study will examine the extent of existing codes of practice and regulations, whether they are met in the curricula of universities, polytechnics and colleges, and how the curricula and course materials can be improved.

Anyone interested in applying to undertake the study should contact the secretary, (Ref: LS/MD), Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.

Sporting chance

Stirling University is to award two new sports bursaries, bringing its total to eight. The scheme, now in its third year, enables students to combine high level sport with academic studies by extending their degree course by a year.

The new bursaries have been awarded to John Huggan, a golfer, and Stephen Taylor, a tennis player. The university has already awarded two other golf bursaries, three badminton bursaries and a canoeing bursary.

Pharmacy inquiry

The Nuffield Foundation has set up a committee of inquiry into pharmacy to examine modern practices in this country, the part it can play in health care, and the education and training that should be given to pharmacists. The foundation has recently completed a similar inquiry into dental education.

Chairing the pharmacy inquiry will be Sir Charles, formerly permanent secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, who will chair the inquiry. The inquiry will be held at the Nuffield Foundation, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1A 1EJ.

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School for Fools: Two weeks of clowning, mime, *commedia dell'arte* and juggling attracted performers and those with aspirations for a summer adult education course. Mr John Lee's School for Fools spawned three new theatre groups. He is repeating the course at the Bristol Folk House in November and later in London.

Overseas halls fees queried

Students at an outer London polytechnic are taking legal advice over higher residential and catering charges to overseas students.

They believe that differential fees were outlawed by the Government in the regulations published this year.

Most polytechnics which had previously required overseas students to pay higher rates have fallen into line but North East London Polytechnic plans to charge £31.82 a week for its Temple Mills accommodation compared with £24 for home students.

NELP seems to be an isolated example. Differential charges were a major issue in polytechnics two or three years ago when there were allegations that it was a breach of the Race Relations Act to charge overseas students more than home students.

Masons refused permission to use City University title

City University has refused permission for a group to call itself the City University Masonic Lodge.

The authority to use the title was questioned at the university's last council meeting before the summer recess. The lodge had also used letters for sale to members of conviction to say that the lodge was a "legitimate" one.

The lodge was formed in 1983 and was given permission by the university to use the name "City University Masonic Lodge" at its first conference, the secretary

'Wrecks' research is salvaged

St Andrews University is to salvage work threatened by the cuts by launching a new maritime research organization.

In 1981, the University Grants Committee recommended axing St Andrews' archaeology department, and there is no longer any undergraduate teaching in archaeology. However, the university has retained its noted institute of maritime archaeology, one of only five in the world.

Staff in the research institute have pioneered the scientific investigation of sunken wrecks, including ships of the Spanish Armada and the Dutch East India Company.

This weekend, the university is to inaugurate the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies, which will draw together the work of archaeologists, ethnologists and historians.

Northampton College to use its name and crest. The university wrote to the lodge pointing out that this reference to the previous college predated the university's charter and that it might be argued that some of the tenets of Freemasonry were not consistent with those of the college.

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studies to teach some Argentine literature and history and it was ridiculous for the Government to support these departments but remove a necessary resource."

Dr Ann Matheson of the National Library of Scotland said books had arrived before, during and after the Falklands crisis, but consignments had been seized in July.

"We do not know and cannot discover what the fate of the books will be," she said. But there were fears that they might be burned.

Mr Anthony Loveday, secretary of Sconul standing committee on national and university libraries, said the committee had written to protest to Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education. Sir Keith and Lord Gower had simply not yet replied, Mr Channon had not yet replied.

"In most cases the books have already been paid for, and for affecting trade relations with Argentina are affecting our own public expenditure," Mr Loveday said.

Professor Nicholas Round, head of Hispanic studies at Glasgow University, added wryly: "Given the universities' present state, we're not going to restore the Argentine economy on the strength of our book budget."

Academics should be prepared to circumvent the ban by obtaining books through other channels, he said. "This is not an issue where there could be a case against the material concerned. It is not pornography, it is not violent racist."

Benney and which now forms a part of the so-called "university treasure" latterly by establishing the L. T. G. Clarke memorial prize.

"Inflation will in due course erode the value of the L. T. G. Clarke prize and the lodge will then, I hope, provide extra money."

"I hope the questioners at Council will not attempt to sour relations between the university and the lodge members who comprise staff, past and present students."

Mr Robert Dixon, director of education for Wallis, described the proposed changes in the funding system, despite the fact that courses given the highest priority by the DES are concentrated in the polytechnics.

Mr Michael Lewis, secretary

Fewer offers would reduce 'mad rush'

by Ngain Crequer

University admissions tutors should make fewer offers of places to avoid the "mad rush" from applicants, a leading careers adviser said last week.

Mr Brian Heap, head of careers guidance at Hutton Grammar School, Preston, was launching the fourth edition of his *Degree Course Offers 1983/84*, a guide to selection and admission to degree courses.

"Admissions tutors should come out on a limb and reduce the number of offers they make to reduce the trauma and the mad rush for places," he said. He added that ideally they should make fewer offers than places as they knew they would always get many

more applicants than places and could still pick and choose. He also criticized the admissions system generally, pointing out that parents and teachers who "telephoned round" universities avoided the clearing house system.

Nor was it true, he said that the closing date for applications was December 15. It was really March 31 because a university had discretion to look at candidates, so thereby keeping its options open.

The Universities Central Council on Admissions said candidates could bracket their choices but it was risky to do so, according to Heap, and some admissions tutors advised strongly against it. Nor did students know the

effect of placing a university low in their five choices. He did not retain any hope however that the system would get better.

Mr Heap listed 14 universities which would expect students to get 10 points or more to gain a place. (Grade A equals five points, grade B equals four points and so on.) They are Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham, Exeter, Edinburgh, Durham, Warwick, St Andrews, Nottingham, Southampton, Bath, Liverpool, Leeds and University College, London.

He said the expected standards were slightly lower at Dundee, Mersey-Watt, Bangor, Belfast, Keele, Essex, Aberdeen and St David's, Lampeter. Last year in about 30 per cent of

university courses and 18 per cent of polytechnic courses, grades had increased by one point. He thought that next year the position would hold steady but standards might rise even more in accountancy, materials science and physics, chemistry, computer studies and psychology. But he thought these and other increases would be more likely in the polytechnic sector.

Some schools and parents regarded business studies as "too trendy". Some schools said American studies attracted the least academically able and motivated of sixth-formers. Mr Heap said:

"He also criticized the poor advice given by some schools and careers teachers. 'Even now you hear teachers saying that their sixth-formers do not need careers advice.' Others seemed to believe that examination grades were the most important thing in life. There were still schools which thought that 'thickies' should be encouraged to go into engineering, he said.

Degree Course Offers 1983/84 by Brian Heap, from Careers Consultants Ltd, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UA, price £6.50 plus 98p postage and packing. *Professional and Vocational Degree Course Offers* by Brian Heap, available as above, price £5.50 plus 98p postage and packing.

Students urged to look further afield for places

Students still trying to find a university place must consider going to any part of the United Kingdom, the Universities Central Council on Admissions said this week.

In a statement to schools and career officers, they said that some students virtually disqualified themselves by excluding some regions, even though there might be vacancies in their subject.

According to UCCA there will be fewer places in clearing this year than last, with half the number of applica-

tions expected, so far received.

In the arts it will be difficult to place candidates with low or moderate grades but there are some vacancies for those with good language qualifications, a B and a C at least. Classics, Russian, religious studies and music have vacancies, but good grades are still necessary.

There are very few vacancies in social studies and even less in medicine, dentistry and the medical sciences. But there is a shortage of well-qualified applicants in pharmacology.

In pure science it looks better, with many places as last year still available. Candidates need middling to good grades. In technology, low grades are not and competition is particularly keen in aeronautical, electrical and mechanical engineering. There are places in metallurgy, but no vacancies in veterinary studies or forestry.

About 172,000 candidates applied through UCCA this year, 1,000 more than last. Last year 78,000 were accepted, some 6,000 through clearing.

Making things count for millions who can't add up

A new campaign to help the millions of adults who have difficulty with simple addition will take place next week with the aim of encouraging as many as possible to take up numeracy classes. The Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU), which is sponsoring National Numeracy Week has run successful literacy campaigns in previous years. But the new initiative will concentrate on student recruitment, rather than promoting community awareness.

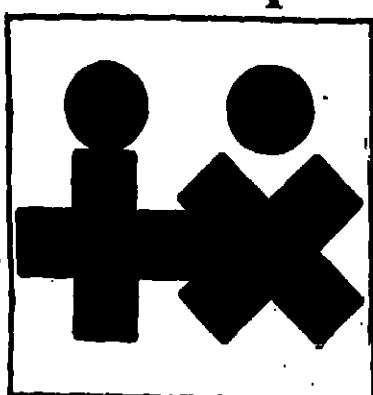
"We want to provide practical help," said Mr Alan Wells, the director of ALBSU. Many of the new recruits, he said, would be housewives. Many lacked confidence with numbers and perceived the problems as being firmly rooted in their everyday lives, where they confronted difficulties with shopping, home maintenance and in wanting to help their school-age children.

Men, on the other hand, saw numeracy problems affecting them most crucially in employment, Mr Wells said.

One in ten adults cannot add up the bill for a few items bought at the supermarket, or work out how much will cost. Ten per cent of the British population has difficulty with simple addition. Almost one third cannot deal with multiplication, division and percentages.

Those for whom numbers just don't add up often face huge problems in seeking and retaining employment and gaining entry to further education. To qualify for most job training schemes - including Government-sponsored ones - they must have at least a basic proficiency with numbers.

As part of National Numeracy Week a new television series, *Counting On*, will be launched on Channel 4 to help adults gain the numeracy skills they



The National Numeracy Week official logo, produced by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU)

need for everyday life. *Counting On* follows two earlier Yorkshire Television series, *Make It Count* and *Numbers at Work*, but it is the first series on numeracy specially commissioned by Channel 4.

More than 8,000 adults in England and Wales are receiving tuition in numeracy. Twice that number are receiving combined literacy/numeracy tuition. National Numeracy Week, will also be promoted at local level. The Post Office will frank two million letters to alert organizations and will display promotional posters in all main branches.

The ALBSU has organized videos and tape/slide shows for local schemes to publicize National Numeracy Week. Viewers of the *Counting On* series will be able to call on several support services - a phone number to call for further information; a workbook containing computer quizzes, produced by the National Extension College in Cambridge; and a quiz-making service.

Print-it-yourself group brings out third title

by Paul Flather

Academics at Glasgow University are publishing their work using simple new technology under their own imprint. Pressing, because it is cheaper than using the usual commercial publishers.

The latest book out this week is *Unpublished Lives*, which analyses the experiences of Scottish women between 1850 and 1920.

It is the third book to be published by Pressing, which was set up by Dr Jason Dittor, a lecturer in sociology, as a non-profit making company. The 200-page book is based on original research by the Glasgow Women's Studies Group and 300 copies have been printed.

Dr Dittor was unwilling to pay sometimes up to £25 for an academic book. He took advice from the Glasgow printing department on how to

produce books cheaply in short print runs. "I am not trying to turn myself into a proper commercial publisher," he said. "I try to use the simplest and cheapest methods to produce books that may never be published at all in normal circumstances."

He feels this is particularly true about books dealing with Scottish topics, considered too parochial by some publishers to be worth producing for the British or foreign markets.

Authors must produce camera-ready copy, usually using electronic typesetters and Laserfont. A cover is designed by the university printing department using a computer. Rough drafts have also used a laser printer.

Dr Dittor believes that researchers

in the future could begin to set aside say £1,000 from any grant to ensure publication of their work.

Previous Pressing titles are *The Thinking Person* by Christina Lerner (300 print run), and *Women Workers in Scotland* by Esther Breitenbach (500 print run sold-out). The next book to be published by Pressing is *Unpublished Lives* by Professor Anthony Sanford, professor of psychology at Glasgow.

The emergence of Pressing ironically coincides with the demise in the activities of the Glasgow University Press. The post of publications officer has been left unfilled since January, and Glasgow now prefers to give grants to commercial publishers rather than produce books itself.

Unpublished Lives available in Scottish and Northern Bookshops, price £9.95 (ISBN 0 90025 30 7)

Director urges solidarity

by Patricia Santinelli

Educational researchers should mobilize both politically and intellectually, according to the new director of the London Institute of Education.

Professor Denis Lawton was speaking at the politics of educational research, at the British Educational Research Association conference in London last week. He said mobilization was essential to make research more effective when the Government was giving it low priority and restricting it to limited commissioning.

"What I am suggesting is the need for the research community to become more politically aware and able. It may not be a question of how many battalions has the Pope, but how many MPs can be mustered to ask awkward questions in the House on behalf of the research community," he said. Above all is there a means of organizing the research community to become a lobby on important issues," he asked.

Professor Lawton added that despite the existence of BERA, the research community was ill-defined, disorganized, and lacking in any cohesion and power. Far from having any power, it had almost no influence.

Professor Lawton suggested that way of attaining a power base of gaining greater influence would be to invite other groups to join the educational research community. One would be researchers working for the Department of Education and Science, who were isolated and whose work is unpublished.

"This group would also include Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Encouraging them to consider themselves as part of the educational research community might even increase the inspectorate's productive tension which already exists between some HMI's and those in the schools within the DE who are more ideologically committed to bureaucratic centralism than professionalism," he said.

Other groups included the National Foundation for Educational Research, whose work had seldom been given prominence it deserved. Teachers and their organizations should also be encouraged to do more research, especially as they were its consumers.

Earlier Professor Lawton advocated a subtle line of resistance to Government policies, which he described as inevitable. "We should accept the centralist tendency but point out its limitations and be careful about the terms which are being offered," he said.

It was vital that researchers should point out the dangers caused by lack of adequate funds, the limitation of research to one area and continue to argue forcefully for pure research.

Professor Lawton also argued that some of the best research could be done without funding, through use of researchers' own time and money.

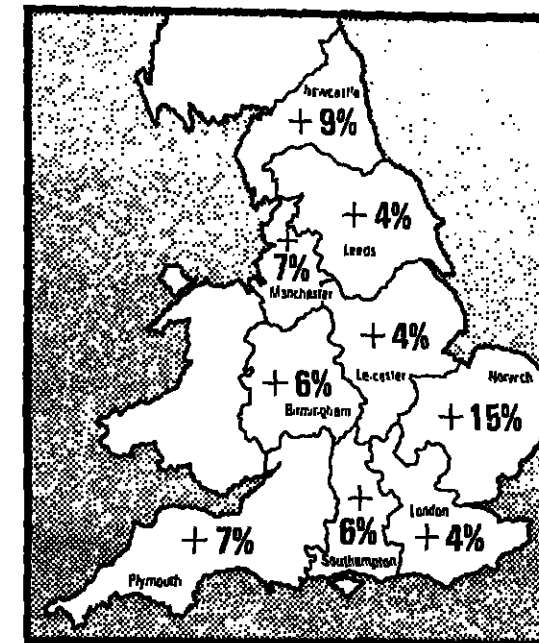
At Dundee University, the Centre for Medical Education is one of only two British centres offering distance learning in the health field, involving 10,000 GPs.

Cancer research

A research unit which will evaluate new anti-cancer drugs has been established in Strathclyde University pharmacy department, supported by grant of more than £70,000 from the Cancer Research Campaign.

The unit will be directed by Professor Alexander Florence and Dr Fraser Stuart of the pharmacy department, and a senior research fellow of the Cancer Research Campaign at Glasgow University's department of clinical oncology.

John O'Leary examines the thinking behind last week's cost-cutting proposals for the public sector



Academic programmes	1982/83	% change	% change
(full-time, 000s)	All	Full-time	Part-time
Initial teacher training	16.8	+3	+14
Teaching and other education	1.7	+2	+4
Medicine, dentistry and health	6.2	+6	+5
Engineering	23.4	+8	+12
Agriculture	0.6	+8	+11
Science	15.2	+10	+11
Mathematics and computing	11.0	+28	+25
Management and law	3.2	+3	+4
Social studies	20.8	-	-
Architecture and other professions	15.1	+3	+3
Languages (including English)	8.2	-4	-6
Humanities	11.0	-4	-6
Visual and performing arts	19.7	+10	+9
Total	182.4	+6	+6

Mode of study	1982/83	NAB Plan	% increase
Full-time	183,500	184,000	5.5
Part-time	58,750	62,750	6.7
Total	242,250	246,750	5.8

Level of study	1982/83	NAB Plan	% increase
Degree and above	151,500	156,000	4.0
Sub-degree	91,000	90,750	8.5
Total	242,500	246,750	5.8

A plan for all regions

Some revision of the proposals is certain even before then, in the light of institutional responses, and it will be surprising if the list of closures and mergers is not reduced before the plan finally reaches Sir Keith in November. Mr Bevan has stressed that the list would not disappear entirely even if the NAB was given all the money it has asked for, but both he and Mr Christy, ophel, chairman of the NAB board, have been at pains to point out the provisional nature of the plan.

In fact, given the guidelines issued by Sir Keith and the criteria agreed by the board, it is hardly surprising that the plan falls short of the radical shake-up which many had expected. The board had discussed both the overall numbers feasible under the Government's spending plans and the division of those numbers by regions and academic programmes. And Sir Keith had already written: "When the NAB considers the institutions plans I hope that, without neglect to the pattern of student demand, priority will be accorded to scientific and technological provision of value to industry, to the operational needs of industry, commerce and the professions, and to meeting the future needs

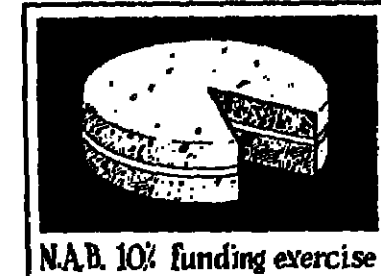
of employers more generally, not least at technician level." Mr Ball himself had also laid down seven planning criteria of his own before the exercise began, pledging the NAB to preserve the best 90 per cent of public sector higher education at the expense of the remaining 10 per cent. The main considerations were local and regional emphasis; the "seamless web" of advanced and non-advanced further education; the coexistence of full-time, part-time and sandwich students; the primacy of teaching; responsiveness to the needs of students and the economy; cost-effectiveness; and concern for quality.

The last - and arguably the most important - factor influencing the proposals were the submissions of the institutions themselves. The "bids" as the submissions have come to be known, were widely dismissed as window-dressing when consultation began, but it appears that most institutions have been taken at their word. Although fewer than half of the colleges and polytechnics cooperated to the extent of identifying priority areas of work, virtually all gave some sort of answer on how they would cope with a 10 per cent budget cut. Mr Bevan does

not claim that those who did identify priorities have come out best but he says that most areas of work identified as essential have been protected.

The plan has taken 11 months to produce, with only one unavoidable hiccup for the general election. Members of the secretariat were given regional briefs and advice was taken on an informal basis from the validating bodies and Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The result has been a set of proposals which relate directly to the individual institutions, rather than merely fitting into a national scheme. The secretariat claims to have been unaware of the split between the polytechnics and the rest, for example, because this was not one of the considerations.

Comparisons are fraught with difficulty because none of the figures can be taken at face value. The polytechnics are given more students than the sum of their bids, the colleges fewer, but total polytechnic numbers will rise by only 4.6 per cent compared with the colleges' increase of almost 8 per cent. The explanation lies in the way the colleges' bids were slanted, giving them the lion's share of the part-time and sub-degree increases which the



NAB had decided upon. Fewer than 2,000 of the polytechnics' additional students are on sub-degree courses, compared with 5,000 in the colleges and institutes.

But the story is reversed at degree and postgraduate levels. Partly because of the loss of places through the proposed college closures, the colleges receive only about 1,000 extra degree students while the polytechnics get 5,500. Again there is more to the figures than a straightforward policy of developing higher level courses in the polytechnics. The Government's information technology initiative, which accounts for a number of new student places, lends itself to the polytechnics, while last year's teacher training cuts distort the colleges' total.

The information technology initiative also distorts the division by academic programmes, boosting numbers both in the engineering category and, more significantly, in mathematics and computing. Similarly, the redesignation of DATEC courses swelled the numbers in the arts category, while the prior announcement of teacher training targets prevented the secretariat from making any alterations to that programme.

The next stage of the exercise unfolds in 10 days, the deadline for institutions to comment on the proposals. That will leave the secretariat almost four weeks to revise its plan before the Board's residential weekend and the first discussion of the national picture. With the committee set to make its final decisions in November in time for Sir Keith to make his pool allocation before Christmas, the timetable is still tight.

Fitted into that schedule must come agreement on the proposed new funding system, giving new weighting to the various academic programmes and to degree-level courses. The combination, assuming no major changes in policy, will leave a continuing row over funding levels as both colleges and polytechnics are asked to take more students for less money in real terms. But it will not change the character of the public sector... this time. Next week: The plan in detail

Both sides blamed in NUS 'audit'

by David Jobbins

The poor industrial relations at the National Union of Students' London headquarters are a likely to improve. The management blamed the union for failing to appreciate fully the pressing need for greater cost-effectiveness and improved methods of working.

But the management itself came in for criticism from members of staff for a style "lending itself more to confrontation than motivation". The staff frequently criticized the NEC's decision-making as confused and lacking in a clear sense of priorities.

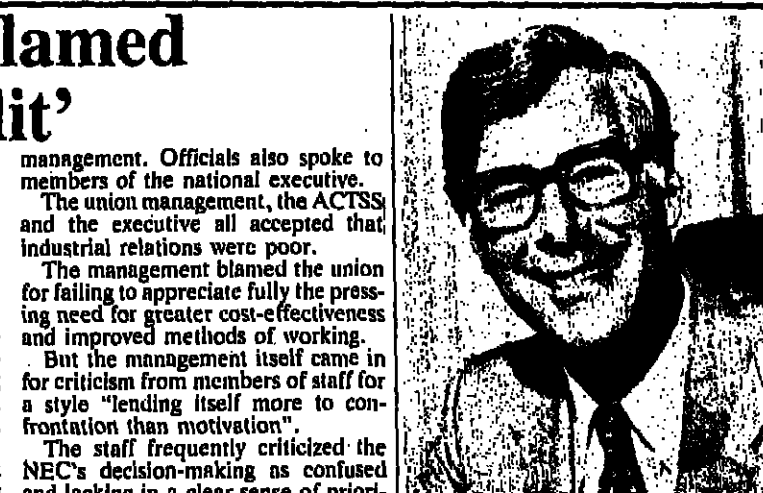
Additionally, "there was a strong body of opinion that many of the executive, perhaps even most of them, did not consent to the management and industrial relations policies being carried out in their name."

The "general tone was that the executive by and large were ill-informed of staff matters and that the 'professional' management policies being pursued were in fact those of a small coterie on the national executive and the chief executive, aided and abetted by members of management."

Mr John Garner, the chief executive, was appointed by the NUS to head the management team set up to create a more cost-effective organization offering highly professional services to student unions.

Although the ACAS team accepted that trust cannot be restored overnight, they said they were encouraged by the high degree of concern for the future well-being of the organization.

Mr Neil Stewart, the NUS president, said the executive accepted all the ACAS findings.



Industrialist Dr David Jones, director of the Brighton-based international consulting engineering company Ewbank Preece Limited, has been appointed the new chairman of Brighton Polytechnic's council. Dr Jones became a member of the council in 1981 and has served on several polytechnic committees. He takes over from Mr Peter Gladwin.

Leisurely approach needed

The Sports Council has been accused of giving all its support to established team games like football, instead of taking more interest in new sports. The Leisure Studies Association, an independent group, claims that Football and other team games no longer dominate the sports scene.

In a report in the latest issue of the LSA's newsletter, Les Hayward, of Bradford and Ilkley Community College, says more resources should go to individual sports like skateboarding, hang-gliding, ballooning and jogging.

Mr Hayward argues that the Sports Council's strategy is "too dismissive" of these new sports. He criticizes the council for being "too reliant" on existing sport governing bodies, which continue to offer "more of the same" as a solution to problems posed by economic and social change.

Lecturers want equal numbers

by Ngain Crequer

Keele University lecturers were this week seeking a tribunal order forcing the university to say how many women had applied for jobs and how successful they had been.

The local Association of University Teachers at Keele has been asking the university for the last five months for the information on female job applicants. But the university has always said that it did not collect such information centrally and it did not have the administrative staff to do so.

The AUT then called in the Government Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (ACAS) which said that under employment law the union had a right to the information and its request had been reasonably put.

The university was still unmoved and so this week a preliminary informal hearing of the Central Arbitration Committee was being held, to try to resolve the issue.

Dr Frances Grundy, assistant secretary of Keele AUT said the purpose of the case was two-fold: to see whether

there was bias in favour of or against women in appointments; and to encourage people to look at why women were not applying and why they were not going into research.

She said she was not accusing the university of sex discrimination. "We teach equal classes in terms of the sexes, but they are unequal in terms of those who teach. So where does the process go wrong?" she asked.

A university official said: "There is no disagreement between the university and the union on the desirability of monitoring this information. The only difficulty is when we can implement it, following the severe cuts in staff."

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Overseas news

It was called the "kiddies' CIOGM" by cynics in the Australian press. But the Commonwealth Student Conference held at Melbourne University last week did not set out to be a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. It did, however, bring together for the first time a disparate group of student leaders from Commonwealth countries, including Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Canada and Britain.

The conference's stated aim was to promote discussion of educational and social issues among students representing developed and Third World countries, "to create an environment for ongoing cooperation among students of the Commonwealth", according to the president of the Australian Union of Students, Julia Gillard.

The inevitable political flavour of the conference is illustrated by the fact that South Africa was also represented by an exiled member of the banned African National Congress, Andrew Molekane, who now lives in the "front-line states" coordinating work for the South African trade union movement.

Then there were the topics discussed at the conference: liberation struggles, decolonization, women and the pass

Geoff Maslen reports on the students' conference in Melbourne

Tragedy of learning the hard way

laws, and nuclear disarmament; issues that higher education students in most parts of the world try, freely or clandestinely, to grapple with.

Among the guest speakers were Renungi Lobisa, chairman of Papua New Guinea's public service and a former vice-chancellor of the university there; Amon Nsekele, chairman of the National Bank of Commerce in Tanzania; and a former high commissioner to London; and Devaki Jain, director of the Institute of Social Studies Trust in New Delhi, and a well-known Indian feminist.

There were speeches about the North-South dialogue, student mobility, and the role of university-based social, charitable and Christian organizations in improving rural life.

But in peaceful, sunny Melbourne the conditions confronting higher education students in other parts of the world seemed impossibly remote. There were, nevertheless, references time and again to the repression,

harassment and outright brutality which students in some Third World countries were obliged to accept.

The deputy secretary of the Asian Students Union, Ms Lisa Dacanay, said the Philippines government was particularly oppressive towards students. "The exercise of student rights - the right of freedom of speech, assembly and organization - is suppressed," she said. "All student organizations were banned when martial law was imposed 11 years ago and, officially, still are."

Students were harassed, arrested, hauled out of lecture theatres and imprisoned, subjected to arrest-search-and-seizure orders, chased on campuses by militia, and spied and reported on by government agents.

Ms Dacanay said students were also oppressed in other Asian countries such as Malaysia, where government legislation bans student organizations. She also claimed that 51 Nepalese

students had been placed in detention centres after a government crackdown earlier this year, nine students were killed in Pakistan after the military opened fire at a campus demonstration and about 100 students had been held in custody in Sri Lanka under a law that allows detention for up to 18 months without trial.

The Swaziland student representative, Mr Fanyana Dlamini, said that while his country's government opposed apartheid, it gagged the student population on the issue for fear of economic reprisals by South Africa.

"Our government wants to keep us quiet and represses students over the apartheid issue," he said. "We are given no forums, no media access. We are allowed no public opposition to apartheid because our government is economically dependent on South Africa. We identify with the oppression in South Africa and realize that unless South Africa is free, Swaziland will never be free."

Mr Molekane said he had been imprisoned for 11 months by the South African authorities for student activities and was now forced to live in exile. "Black South African students enjoy none of the privileges of white students," he said.

"Of 17 universities, five are for blacks who make up 75 per cent of the population. Black students are harassed by the Government, imprisoned without trial, arrested or detained without reason."

South African tensions spilled over into the conference. The white South African observer withdrew at the last minute when black African delegates said that, in line with their government policies, they could not be in the company of a white South African at an international forum. The issue embarrassed the organizers, discomfited the blacks, and the white South Africa did not want to talk about it.

Delegates from more than 20 countries managed to make it to the conference. But internal strife prevented Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Cyprus from being represented.



Garret Fitzgerald: spoke of increase

'Give precise projections'

from John Walshe

DUBLIN

Ireland's Higher Education Authority wants the government to state the exact number of student places that will be provided up to the end of the decade.

Last year there were 44,500 full-time students in higher education and recently the Taoiseach Dr Garret Fitzgerald spoke vaguely about a 50 per cent increase over a 10-year period. But the HEA, which is a statutory body, would like a more definite figure.

Dr Fitzgerald's Fine Gael party had talked about 60,000 to 70,000 places while the HEA at one stage had set down a target of 75,000.

The HEA says there are many questions about the extent of the increased intake which is required and which can be absorbed by the national economy.

Its comments are contained in a submission to the education minister, Gorman Hussey, who is preparing a detailed action programme on education 1984-1987.

The submission also makes it clear that, apart from the extra revenue needed to cope with any increased student enrolment, the existing provision is inadequate.

The budgets for the university colleges were cut two years running by 10 per cent on what the authorities regarded as the minimum necessary to keep them ticking over. Tuition fees have gone up substantially bringing their share of total college income from 13 per cent in 1979/80 to more than 17 per cent at present.

The submission lists the economy measures already underway in the universities including: 180 posts "frozen"; telephone monitoring; printing costs cut; catering cut-backs; reduction in cleaning; introduction of short courses to increase income; changes to a wide range of services such as accommodation, printing, bookshops, telephone hardware and telephone calls.

The search for economies within the colleges will go on because of the realities of financial difficulties, says the submission. But, it adds pointedly, the hard fact remains that increasing numbers of students, simply cannot be catered for in any major way without some increase in resources.

Chill blows the wind for France

from Guy Neave

PARIS

Though higher education budgets have grown considerably over the past two years, the chill winds of financial austerity are beginning to blow through France's universities.

Later in 1982 university administrators were instructed by the ministry of education to exercise a more rigorous approach to their financial management.

The call has not always been heeded. It is current practice in many French universities to spend up to - and in some cases - well beyond the limits allowed by central government and then persuade the government to step in at the last moment and bail out the improvident.

Courses attracting relatively few students are being asked to merge wherever possible to permit further savings. Now the rumour is that the 1984 budget will be even less favourable with the main fear being that resources available to pay part-time hours and those staff who rely on them exclusively for their wages may be cut to the bone.

M Jean Jacques Payen, director general for higher education, has not denied this. He has also come out with rather more precise information as to the way the ministry will enforce financial compliance.

Some improvements are to be made in the staff-student ratio and additional funds will be unlocked to bolster up technical staff and other support services.

But the stick is not far behind the carrot. New posts, the director general said, will go to those universities showing a notable effort in making more efficient use of their already existing resources. Those who fail to do so will see their resources reduced to aid those who can.

Selective role urged on unions

Poland's new trade unions should play a big part in the selection of young people for higher education. Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski urged recently. He was speaking at the Baildon steel mill in Katowice, the heartland of the Silesian industrial belt, addressing a meeting of union organizers from all over Poland.

The unions, he said, during their deliberations, had stressed mainly the problems of wages and "individual consumption". But they should also pay attention to the "enormous shortcomings" in the "collective consumption" sector - education, sport, health care, and culture. With record population growth in Poland (the soaring birth-rate, the official news agency PAP announced recently, is the envy of Europe), the nation must be aware of its responsibilities in this latter sector. The "advancement of the working class" must, he said, "become a steady process".

In practical terms, this means, *inter alia*, that the proportion of young people from the families of workers and peasants who enter higher educational courses must be increased. This is a long-standing problem in Poland. In the early 1970s some interesting surveys were made in Warsaw, which demonstrated statistically that the child of intellectuals has, all else being equal, a better chance of good academic performance at school (and consequently, the chance of a university education) than the child of workers.

Warsaw provided a particularly suitable basis for this survey, since when the city was rebuilt after the last war, care was taken in the allocation of homes to get a homogeneous mix throughout the city of social and educational backgrounds - there should not be, it was felt, any specifically "working class" or "intellectual" quarters. Consequently, the classroom stimulus - and indeed the standard of teaching in schools throughout the city was much more uniform than in, say, Krakow, where there are still considerable differences between the old "intellectual" residential areas and the industrial suburbs such as Nowa Huta.

Even greater discrepancies exist between educational standards in urban and rural schools. The latter have never been up to city standard, and the reforms of the 1970s which closed the small village schools in favour of large comprehensives, although providing better teaching facilities, had to cope with pupils who often arrived tired and breakfastless, after a journey of several kilometres without public transport - and who, at the end of classes had to face the same journey home before they could have their first meal of the day. (School meals and school buses, although advocated by planners, were implemented in only a few favoured



General Jaruzelski: "Advancement of the working class must be a steady process"

able differences between the old "intellectual" residential areas and the industrial suburbs such as Nowa Huta. Even greater discrepancies exist between educational standards in urban and rural schools. The latter have never been up to city standard, and the reforms of the 1970s which closed the small village schools in favour of large comprehensives, although providing better teaching facilities, had to cope with pupils who often arrived tired and breakfastless, after a journey of several kilometres without public transport - and who, at the end of classes had to face the same journey home before they could have their first meal of the day. (School meals and school buses, although advocated by planners, were implemented in only a few favoured

In his Katowice speech, General Jaruzelski admitted the imperfection of the "points" system which, he said, had often failed to benefit the most deserving cases. He spoke warmly of the proposed foundation course, and also the establishment of extra-mural courses for "leading workers".

It was not the principle of special concessions to the children of workers and peasants, he stressed, that was at fault - such a scheme was necessary to "fish out the pearls which otherwise often get lost on the way". Rather, he said, there should be a more organized form of selection, with the trade unions "providing the patronage to a great degree", selecting those young people who, in their opinion, are most deserving of a university education.

Overseas news

The Third World has lift-off

by Thomas Land

A global development agency has brought together the American telecommunications industry and Texas A & M University in design, finance and administration an ambitious training course in space-age skills for senior instructors and managers from the developing countries. Several Western universities are currently engaged in discussions leading to related study programmes.

The first of a series of 10-week sessions recently began at the A & M University's new model telecommunications training centre. The pupils, selected for the course by the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, are eventually to help in the establishment and administration of similar regional training centres when they return home.

The model centre has been designed by the United States Telecommunications Suppliers Association representing a rapidly growing industry which stands to gain considerable business through winning specialist friends in the developing countries about to enter the space age.

Several similar schemes are likely to be announced shortly by various Western donors. The UN's outer space division alone hopes to spend \$500,000 next year to promote advanced training schemes for the poor countries.

The purpose of the new model centre is to develop essential crafts and skills in telecommunications, to prepare teachers, educational and industrial planners and managers for training centre design, administration and operation, to provide instruction in the use of sophisticated training aids and techniques involved in various specialized courses, and to enable students to instruct trainees on their return home.

Science man appointed

Canada has appointed a former vice rector for research at the University of Quebec as its first full time senior adviser on science and technology. As Secretary of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, Louis Berlinguet will sit on four major Cabinet committees in order to advise prime minister Pierre Trudeau and his ministers on the scientific and technological impact of government policy proposals.

Berlinguet will also "play the leading role within government" when it comes to planning Canada's overall science and technology effort, say ministry officials. The appointment brings major changes to the ministry of state for science and technology. Trimmed off nearly half its staff, the ministry will become a coordinating body, leaving the execution of scientific policy to other government departments.

Foreign change

The Ontario government has modified its 40 per cent tuition increase for foreign students. Under the new arrangement, visa students entering their second year next month will not begin paying the full increase until the winter semester period. Their tuition for the autumn session will rise by only 5 per cent.

Ontario was one of six Canadian provinces charging higher tuition to non-Canadians. The others are Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Nearly half the 24,771 foreign university students in Canada last year studied in Ontario.

Petrol dollars

An oilman's donation of \$125 million to Louisiana State University is thought to be the largest gift ever made to a US educational institution. Dr. C. B. Pennington, an 83-year-old Louisiana oil executive, has put stocks and shares in a trust fund for a nutrition and preventive medicine centre to be constructed on the LSU campus at Baton Rouge and opening in 1985.

Previously, the largest recorded donation was the \$105 million given to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, by the Emory and Ernest Woodruff Fund. The fund was created by Robert W. Woodruff, a retired chairman of the Coca-Cola Co.

York freeze

For the first time in its 23-year history, York University is denying admission to large numbers of qualified students. Faced with funding problems and a 78 per cent jump in applications, the Toronto university has decided to freeze first year enrolment at 1982/83 levels and raise the entrance requirements from a 60 per cent to a 70 per cent average. Some 1,400 applicants, with averages above 60 per cent have been turned away, and even students with marks as high as 85 per cent have been refused entry to certain undergraduate programmes.

Racist admissions system delay

from Carolyn Dempster
JOHANNESBURG

A showdown with South Africa's liberal English universities over the implementation of the controversial Universities Amendment Act was averted this week when the government announced that the racially-biased student admissions system would be shelved.

The minister of national education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen made it clear however, that the act would remain on the statute books and could be applied at any stage in the future.

The announcement came after an intense campaign by the country's four English universities, Cape Town, Rhodes, Natal and the University of the Witwatersrand, to have the "quote bill" withdrawn.

The general assemblies, demonstrations and meetings at the four campuses early this year were reminiscent of the mass protests held by the liberal universities in the late 1950s when the government pushed through the Extension of Universities Act, barring black students from open universities.

After the third reading of the quote bill in Parliament (when the bill became law), anyone who believed that the face of apartheid had changed in

the 24 intervening years began to lose faith.

After the Act was gazetted, a confrontation between the liberal universities and the government seemed inevitable. The universities were also faced with substantial subsidy cuts if they took the route of defiance by refusing to implement the discriminatory admissions system.

This proviso, built into the new legislation, was "a sinister component - a bill no better than legislation which barred Jews from institutions of higher learning in Nazi Germany," in the view of 200 academics at the University of Cape Town.

In the light of the universities' firm stance, the government's decision to back down over the issue but not repeal the Act entirely, should not be seen as a change of heart, but rather as a conciliatory sop to the liberal universities.

Black students who wish to study medicine, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary science, dentistry, paramedical courses, optometry, agriculture and surveying at a "white" university will still have to bow to the old system of admissions control and apply for ministerial permission before they can enrol.

Peru steps up pressure over alleged subversion

by Colin Harding

The Peruvian authorities have been stepping up their pressure on intellectuals and researchers, particularly foreigners, as the three-year campaign to stamp out the Maoist guerrilla movement Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) continues to stagnate. The military commander in the Ayacucho war zone, in the central Andes, General Clemente Noel Moral, has threatened legal proceedings against three distinguished figures connected with the local university, San Cristobal de Huamanga - Dr Efraim Morote Best and Dr Enrique Moya Bendeza, both former rectors, and the current incumbent, Dr Victor Diaz Leon.

The general has accused the three men (Dr Morote is also dean of the Ayacucho bar association) of responsibility for 300 murders and an unspecified number of "subversive deeds". He also said recently that San Cristobal had lecturers who had come to the city to engage in subversive activities.

General Noel's outburst was part of a growing campaign by the Peruvian Government to implicate both local and foreign research organizations - particularly those involved in social science projects - in financing and supporting Sendero Luminoso.

The cue for this campaign, however, was given by President Fernando Belaunde himself. In June he launched the first of a series of attacks on "those who come from abroad to run the country's puppet and spread discord among our people". In the name of the foundations and institutions which allegedly had been "subversive", he supposedly concerned about helping



President Fernando Belaunde

Peru. The Minister of the Interior, Luis Paredy, immediately announced that all foreign research foundations were being investigated, to see if they had any links with "subversion".

This onslaught provoked an indignant response from a number of Peruvian research foundations which reject financial support for their programmes from abroad. They pointed out that foreign aid was essential as the Peruvian Government neglected its responsibility to finance social research and action.

Such arguments have done nothing, however, to discourage the "anti-foreign" campaigners. The President again referred recently to "foreign financiers and mentors" who are trying to destroy Peruvian democracy. President Belaunde was elected by a landslide in 1980, but the signs are that his party, Accion Popular (Popular Action), will lose badly in the municipal elections in November.

Staffing threat to open entry

from Lindsay Wright

WELLINGTON

Open entry to New Zealand universities, a standing policy of successive governments and the admission procedure consistently favoured by university and student representatives alike, is under threat.

In the most explicit suggestion yet, the University Grants Committee, in its annual report to parliament, says that the magnitude of continuing reductions in staff numbers "will inevitably lead to a reconsideration of the current policy".

That policy means that anyone who is academically qualified to enter a university can expect to be admitted, although not necessarily to the faculty of his or her choice.

Outlining the origins of the developing staffing problem, the UGC reported that the national roll rise in 1981 of 1,225 above the agreed quinquennial forecast had resulted in an increased funding of NZ \$1.5m (about £700,000) from 1982 to meet the costs of additional staffing.

The review increase of NZ \$1.5m was only just in place when the government announced that state spending was to be reduced by 3 per cent from 1 April 1982.

This meant a target saving of NZ \$6.5m (about £2.8m), and with 88.7 per cent of university expenditure going on salaries the only way to reach that target was to reduce staffing. "In view of the continuing decline in staff numbers the point must soon be reached when total student entry should be constrained," the UGC said.

Brothers in law . . .

Despite the enforced absence of two Russians and two Poles, all eminent in their fields, last month's eleventh World Congress on Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Helsinki demonstrated that at least one potentially charged subject still exists over which East and West are prepared to exchange views amicably.

The Russians refused permission to leave for Finland by the Soviet authorities - for no apparent political reason - were professors Vladimir Eroshin and Gennadi Malchev. The missing Poles were Professor Tadeusz Glibert-Studnicki, who was not granted an exit visa, and Professor Jan Wolenski, who was denied necessary leave. The 450 participants from 36 countries had access to the papers of the four absentees in one form or other.

Britain was eloquently represented by most of its leading academic names in legal and social philosophy. Professor William Twining, professor of jurisprudence at London University, addressed the congress ex tempore on legal reasoning, examining a theoretical background which challenged the view that law consists not only of rules but also of institutions and processes.

It was in fact Georg Henrik von Wright, Wittgenstein's successor at Cambridge and now a robust 67-year-old whose modest demeanour belies his services to philosophy and fellow philosophers, who set the tone for the meeting with a paper entitled "Is and Ought", considering the way in which morality "transcends" legality by censuring laws and court decisions.

Public attention was beamed strongly on Mr Werner Mainhofer, an interior minister in Willy Brandt's former government, and Mr Adam Lopatka, the Polish minister currently responsible for church-state relations.

Mr Mainhofer defended the system of barring "extremist elements" of both right and left from key public appointments, and believed that every country operated some kind of politically based elimination in building up its civil service, especially where security of the state was at stake.

It is surprising that the harshest criticism of the West German system is

Donald Fields reports from the eleventh world congress on legal philosophy in Helsinki

levelled by countries which in practice pursue the same procedure," he claimed.

Mr Lopatka seemed only too happy to endorse these views. His paper purported to show that "both the Polish legal and political doctrine set great store by human rights . . . actual or presumed violations of those rights are severely and consistently condemned".

Substantiating his claims about official respect for human rights, the minister referred to the 1952 constitution. He drew a distinction between the rights suspended by article four of the 1981 criminal law decrees - personal immunity, secrecy of correspondence, the right of association, freedom of speech and print - and those specified in article four, section two - the right to life, a ban on the use of torture and enslavement - which he saw as inviolable even under martial law.

Mr Lopatka stressed that the "right of the nation" to decide its fate was higher in the hierarchy of values than individual rights to personal freedom and freedom of speech, but concluded that "the most desirable status is the one in which all the human rights are fully realized".

One of the principal papers came from Joseph Raz of Balliol College, Oxford, who outlined differences between common law systems and those based on the Roman law tradition. Mr Raz concluded: "As it is a necessary fact that courts have law-making powers it is also a universal fact that in exercising them their actions are based on moral and political tendencies, and that they are directed by law to do so."

Perhaps such a tenet helps explain why there can be extensive common ground not only between different legal systems, but also between legal philosophers from different ideological blocs.

Nation hooked on education

from E. Patrick McQuaid

WASHINGTON

The autumn term will see a quarter of all Americans engaged in education as their primary activity, according to recent ministry figures.

"In a nation with a population of 234 million," said the education secretary, Mr Terrel Bell, "more than one out of four persons will be a direct participant in the educational process, and that figure rises to nearly three out of 10 when the support staff of our nation's schools and colleges are included."

Some 56.7 million students and 3.6 million teachers and administrators will fill the schools and colleges, but not to the levels earlier years have seen thanks to a steady decline in kindergarten through secondary school enrolment, reflecting a post-baby boom dearth.

Tertiary enrolments are expected to hold steady at last year's peak of 12.4 million, however, because more and more older students, part-time students, women and minorities who have traditionally remained outside the college bracket are attending college and university.

Education spending, said the secretary, will be at an all-time high, despite budget cuts. Elementary and secondary schools will spend a likely \$141bn during the next academic year while colleges and universities will probably spend \$89bn.

According to the National Centre for Education Statistics, the federal government will cover about 9 per cent of the spending at public colleges and universities. The individual states will account for 39 per cent with local governments contributing an estimated 24 per cent. The remaining 28 per cent is derived from student tuition, fees, plus endowment earnings and private contributions.

College and university instructors were expected to number 870,000 this year, the same as last, while the number of elementary and secondary school teachers will drop by 10,000.

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THI

In the first of two articles, Jon Turney reports on the beleaguered Agricultural Research Council

Lean times and furrowed brows

British committees are nothing if not gentlemanly. The Advisory Board for the Research Council's report to the Secretary of State for Education and Science last year spoke of the "excellent and valuable work" done by the Agricultural Research Council.

The same report then went on to recommend big cuts for the council. If confirmed this year, these will mean the loss of 500 or more ARC research workers and support staff. The advisory board explained: "This should not be taken to imply any general criticisms of the quality of research undertaken."

It was all a matter of priorities. That may have been so. But the board were clearly influenced by widespread disquiet about the way agricultural research is organized, if not by explicit criticism about its quality. That disquiet has often created problems in the past for agricultural research administrators, chiefly in the ARC and the Ministry of Agriculture. Now it looks as though it may give rise to a completely new structure.

In the mosaic of institutes, councils and committees which somehow work together to make British science policy, agricultural research and development has a corner to itself. Here, the ties have been lifted and reshuffled so often that many feel the logic of the original pattern has been lost.

Aside from the "forward look" by the main Government advisory committee, the ABRC, half a dozen other reports in the last year have proposed changes in the budgets, priorities or organization of agricultural research. More change must be on the way. Will it bring another running repair or a complete redesign?

The rest of the country's research workers will await the outcome almost as anxiously as agricultural scientists. After all, it was a confidential report in 1970, recommending transfer of the ARC to the Ministry of Agriculture, which helped spark off the Government's call to Lord Rothschild to review the whole of the public research system.

The Rothschild reforms, especially the transfer of funds from three of the five research councils to customer departments, are now again under review in a study for the advisory board by Sir Ronald Mason. Relations between the ARC and its customer department are sure to loom large in Sir Ronald's inquiry.

The council receives a larger share of its income from commissioned work than the others, which came to £44m out of a total budget of £96m last year.

Sir Ronald will report at the crucial moment for the ARC, when this year's overall forward look is being finalized. The cuts in the council's share of the science budget proposed last year do not take effect until 1984/85. This gave the ARC the chance to fight a rearguard action against the recommendation, beginning with Dr Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, who added a dissenting note to the original report.

The main problem in the coming year is the ARC's high spending on its own institutes. Since it was founded in 1931, the council has been given control over 22 institutes in England and Wales alone, some of them with strong research traditions going back to the nineteenth century.

Their relative autonomy makes changing the ARC's overall direction about as easy as turning a supertanker around in a gale. But the ARC stressed that the council should find room for several new research priorities, including genetic engineering in animals, biotechnology, and vaccine production, at the same time as preparing to trim its expenditure.

In his original appendix to the forward look, Dr Riley estimated that 300 staff, 200 of them scientists, would have to go by 1986. The figure has since been increased to 500.

with current cash allocations.

The council laid out the implications of this earlier this year. "Reductions of this magnitude cannot be achieved solely by reducing recruitment, deferring capital expenditure or research grants to universities," it said. "More radical steps will be necessary, involving major reduction and restructuring of programmes. Important research work of considerable scientific merit and agricultural relevance will cease."

This would mean a staff loss of perhaps 500, almost certainly involving compulsory redundancy and site closures. The scale of these changes means that the response to the other reports which have commented on the agricultural research service is of less immediate concern to the ARC than the crucial decision on this year's Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, expected in October. Council members are well used to hearing suggestions for reorganizing the whole system.

Nevertheless, the other reports, most notably from the Ministry of Agriculture's own main advisory body on research and development, add up to a formidable catalogue of complaints against both the ARC and the ministry. This can hardly have helped the ARC's case.

One abiding issue is the almost baroque complexity of the whole agricultural research system. Even one of the ARC's senior scientific advisers, Dr Tito Librecht, began an article describing the council's work in the *Biologist* earlier this year with a disarming admission. "The ARC is one of those very British institutions which, when one tries to explain its organization to a visitor, emerges as marvelously illogical and more or less incomprehensible," he wrote. Scarcely a recipe for survival under a cost-cutting government.

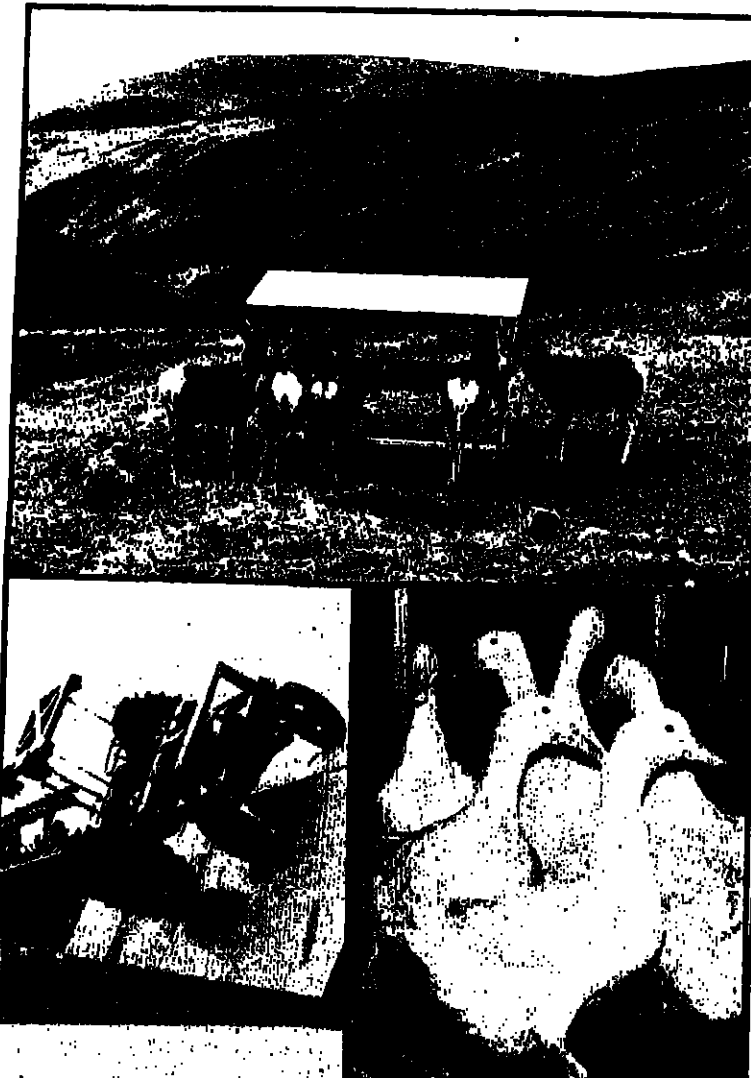
In fact, the ARC itself has made major changes in its headquarters structure this year, giving three divisions plants and soils, animals and response to yet another report, last September, from the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development. This criticized the council and the Ministry of Agriculture for failing to stimulate food research, especially in universities.

The ACARD report, from the second main Government advisory committee on research, underlined the ARC's special position among the research councils in being tied to a major industry. The ARC is, in effect, an applied research outfit competing for funds with councils with a stronger responsibility for fundamental research.

Changes in the agriculture and food industries behind much of the current pressure on the agricultural research system. The industry, which accounted for one fifth of consumer spending, approached £30 billion - last year, is faced with a stagnant market, with profits increasingly the preserve of retailers rather than farmers or food processors. The ACARD report was heavily influenced by a strong lobby seeking a transfer of Government research funds from agriculture to food processing, and this has helped open up the whole question of priorities for agriculture and food research and development.

One product of the ARC's responsibility for food and crop research is that the council is subject to scrutiny by the clumsily named Joint Consultative Organization for Agriculture and Food (JCOC), which advises the government on priorities of research on priorities. The JCOC itself has been reorganized recently, and its presiding board decided research policy by assessing existing research, by assessing existing research, as it reported in June 1982, that there was no policy to assess, in the sense of a coordinated set of criteria for fixing priorities.

This, the board felt, explained the problem: the ARC was having to reshape its programme. It was no good having the object of research was to increase production. Times had changed. Between the lines of the first JCOC report, it was already clear that



Red deer hinds (top) feeding at Glensnaugh Deer Farm; (above left) testing a tractor on an artificial bank; intensive housing for ducks.

the European Community's butter and beef mountains were going to loom large over the future of the ARC.

The University Grants Committee shared the JCO board's concern about the absence of a coherent policy and was especially anxious to increase the amount spent by the ARC and the Ministry of Agriculture in universities. This fitted in well with JCO thinking and the two organizations issued a brief joint paper in February this year arguing that universities were more flexible and better geared to short-term research projects than institutes.

But in all this, the JCO was only flexing its muscles for its most sustained bout of bureaucratic-bashing, in April this year. In its paper "Organization of research and development for the agriculture and food industries" the board proposed a sweeping reorganization of the entire system.

Its description of the present arrangements ran the gamut of criticism from "ponderous and unwieldy" through "inefficiency" to the need for a "more professional approach". The report judged that both the ministry and the ARC had too many people in expensive London offices, that there was duplication of effort in administration, but still poor control over research programmes.

There was too little scope for the food industry to influence research choices, and in any case researchers were too set in their ways. "The incentives to an aging scientific staff to be mobile, and to seek retraining for new work, are too few," the report added ominously. The only part of the system the JCO felt worked well was in Scotland, where the Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries worked very well with institutes and universities north of the border.

The solution proposed in the report was a new, unified research organization, outside London. In spite of the scientific criticism of the ministry's chief, the suggested new body would be funded out of the DES science vote, taking the "technical" authority would have a board of directors, to make policy and parcel money out to institutes, universities, research associations and private sector laboratories.

The JCO board then had a stroke of good luck. Their paper was produced only at the behest of the House of Commons Select Committee on Agricultural Research, which was also looking at agricultural research and development. Very soon after the JCO paper was published, the select committee's

inquiry was halted by the election announcement. As a result, the conclusions of their hastily-drafted report are recommendations, but for the idea that the new research and development authority should be funded jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the DES.

The select committee report bolstered the case for change, although the Ministry of Agriculture was now the main villain of the piece. The problem, once again, was policymaking. Within the ministry, research priorities are decided by the Minister on the advice of two chief scientists, one responsible for fisheries and food and one for agriculture and horticulture. Their preferences are then channelled through no less than 17 permanent commissions, on subjects ranging from soil science to food, which put out research contracts.

The ARC came out of the select committee scrutiny rather better. In particular, their report sympathized with Dr Riley's argument that the Advisory Board for the Research Councils exceeded its remit with the 1982 recommendations. This argument was a neat attempt to turn the ARC's ties to applied research to advantage.

According to Dr Riley: "In recommending a reduction of the committee to agricultural, horticultural and food research, the ARC were recommending something which was beyond the realms simply of scientific priorities." Since the ARC was responsible for the main research capability of an important sector of the economy, any judgment about a reduction of ARC's activity was a matter for the Government, he argued.

However, while the select committee endorsed this view, their support for ARC appeared to stem mainly from a wish to stop the overall budget being new organization which would call ARC's current role into question, although their joint-funded authority looks more like a clone of the existing council than the JCO's original idea.

For its part, the council appears to have set its face against the kind of planning advocated by the JCO and MPs. In evidence to the select committee, the ARC described its overall aim as "to advance scientific knowledge relevant to food supply, and to exploit this knowledge to increase the efficiency of the agricultural, horticultural and food industries and to safeguard and improve the quality of food."

But this is no longer true. At Professor Colin Spedding of Reading University's centre for agricultural strategy points out in a book on British science policy to be published later this year by Longmans, "such a policy does not suggest how priorities can be determined between competing research proposals."

The ARC has made some changes to take account of this, notably with a new strategic planning system due to operate from this autumn. But Dr Riley takes issue with "those who believe that the pattern of research should reflect public policies for the agricultural and food industries."

In his Bernal lecture earlier this year, he defended the record of agricultural research, which has undoubtedly been highly successful in increasing yields per acre. This was because the scientists had been allowed to get on with the job. National needs, political opinions, economic objectives and global food supply and demand change too fast to fit in with the relatively slow progress of research, he argued. The best progress is to pursue basic sciences which provided a range of technological options for industry.

No one disputes the excellence of the ARC's work in such fields as animal breeding and genetic engineering, animal disease and pesticide application. Even so, the argument is unhelpful to satisfy their critics.

Professor Spedding, for instance, believes the council is too firmly wedded to basic science. He points out that agriculture involves many disciplines looking at people, crops, soil, livestock, management and economics. The ARC, though, is dominated by scientists, who are only interested in one component of agriculture - science.

So the positions on the future shape of agricultural research are now widely taken out. The outcome is still unclear, but the combination of a minister at the ministry of agriculture, Mr Michael Jopling, a new permanent secretary and further public spending cuts in prospect will mean that what for money in the Government's overall expenditure of £140m for agriculture and food research and development moves high up the agenda. The ministry has already trimmed its budget for applied work commissioned by the ARC by £240,000 this summer in the latest round of cuts, decreasing the council's room for manoeuvre still further.

The JCO is certain to press for its recommendations to be accepted, and it will be hard for the ministry to disagree with its main advice without calling their role into question. Mr Oscar Colburn, the influential farmer who chairs the JCO board says that there must be a response soon.

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Eager pupils in the study of stardom

Hard work, hard floors and hard up - Dan Gillan on the Fringe students

An attempt to assess student involvement in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe rapidly develops into an exploration of the city's normally uncharted halls, cellars and vacant places. Any space large enough to contain more than 30 seats and a scaffold stage is pressed into service.

The raw figures explain the pressure on resources - nearly 500 groups are presenting about 800 shows at nearly 100 venues. Of the performers involved, some 60 per cent are professionals, the rest amateurs, among whom are at least 70 student groups from the UK and abroad, presenting all manner of productions and exhibitions, which will attract an estimated half a million ticket sales.

The usual assertion that the Fringe is an anything-goes circus of energetic chaos where student groups or individuals casually turn up "to do their thing" is quickly exploded on closer examination. A great deal of time, effort and organization goes into participation. Even old hands like the Cambridge Mimmers, who have won a firm following over the years, started their preparations back in February. This year they won a Fringe First award for *Glee*, adapted from Joyce's *Ulysses*, and balanced that with *Grook*, *King of Clowns* and *Hard Times For These Times*, after Dickens, hoping for a broad appeal.

They need audiences because the five shows presented last year left them with a considerable debt, in spite of a reputation which attracts considerable sponsorship. Unfortunately, beneath the greasepaint, the creative flair and the enthusiasm, money matters rule and can KO next year's visit for those who don't get their sums right.

First-time Keele University Drama Group offering *Glass Menagerie* and *Frantic* (an alternative *Hamlet*), assumed they would get no audience and raised money with a sponsored dance-marathon, jumble sales and discos. Fortunately, they were far too pessimistic and are attracting about 100

customers per show. They also received a very favourable review which was *The Glass Menagerie*'s inherent dramatic purpose, by a superb cast of actors who were happy to admit that one of their purposes in coming to the fringe was to improve their standing with "the folks at home". Hopefully, this sort of reception will have the desired effect, ensuring more financial support next year.

Show budgets do not usually cover individual expenses, these have to be found with the vague prospect of a dividend if the season proves profitable. With rent alone as high as £20 per week, even for six in a room, students may find their earnings in broom cupboards (they come large in Edinburgh) or an actual rather than proverbial kitchen floor.

When there are as many as 18 migrant Theatians to a flat, all requiring food or a cup of coffee at any time of day or night, it is not surprising to hear occasional reports of exhaustion and frayed tempers. Morale is usually high in spite of domestic circumstances and there is a general admission, though sometimes grudging, that the whole exercise can be enlarged more in two or three weeks than in years of lectures and departmental productions.

A clear desire to perform

While everyone tries to make the best of financial constraints, a variety of motives can underpin the time-consuming and somewhat costly strand to the Fringe. At one end there is just a clear desire to perform before a hopefully discriminating audience. A group of students and ex-students from the Royal Northern College of Music are giving the first British performances of some songs by the Viennese composer Zemlinsky, so linking into the official Festival's theme - Vienna 1900. Itchen Sixth-Form College also reflected this period



Students from Brooklands Technical College, Weybridge, in their production of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht

with Kokoschka's *Sphinx* and the *Strawman*. Their production should have been the same artist's *Murderer, Hope of Women*, but this was cancelled at a very late date due to anxieties about a possible clash with Ballet Rambert's version in the official Festival; such are the vagaries of life on the Fringe.

Both these groups were fortunate enough to receive official encouragement and practical help from their institutions, while other groups complain somewhat bitterly about lack of cooperation and even sympathy from their tutors or departments. This reluctance apparently stems partly from a genuine lack of interest in the performance of drama or music as opposed to critical appreciation, and partly from the undoubted competition for a student's time and energy which involvement in performance entails.

One ex-undergraduate from East Anglia, now with the National Student Theatre Company attracted the ultimate penalty: because of his keenness on performing, he failed his first year exams in French and Social Anthropology and had to leave. A student still studying drama roundly condemned the purely academic approach - "There are a lot of people who've written papers and dramatic commentaries on plays and think because

they've written it all down, they can then go out and do it, which is rubbish." Another suggested that perhaps directors and creative talents should occasionally be brought into departments from among professionals in theatre and music to combat staidness and complacency.

Invaluable experience in the practical skills

A company like the NSTC also offers students invaluable experience in the practical skills of theatre - a team of four with expert supervision has six days in which to convert an empty hall into a safe space for performers and public. They installed a scaffold stage, lighting, a sound system, three-phase electricity and tiered seating in the time, to standards to satisfy the fire and safety authorities.

This theatre houses seven productions over the four weeks, with curtains parting for the first at 1pm and closing on the last 10 hours later. The company of 54 must be prepared to do a bit of everything apart from their speciality and were chosen by invitation from performers at the National Student Drama Festival.

This year, the prize-winning production of *Die Hose*, Steinhilber's satire of

1911, formed the basis of the company's programme in Edinburgh, where it has won a Fringe First award.

Certainly, many students with proven success at this level would like to go on to become professionals in their chosen field, and while acknowledging that "a fine imagination is helped by a strong intellectual base" find the common division between the purely academic approach and the need for training in performance skills both unnecessary and puzzling.

The problems of the ambitious individual are increasing as it becomes ever more difficult to fund postgraduate vocational training. One would-be actress speaks of her understandable annoyance when after being offered one of 20 places from 3,000 applicants at an accredited drama school, her local authority showed not the slightest interest in providing any support.

There are a few courses where the two requirements are tailored harmoniously, but judging from the frustrations voiced by a number of very talented young people, contributing to the excitement and pleasures of the Fringe, it would be of general benefit if such cooperation were the norm rather than the exception.

Perhaps next year, time could be found for a forum to air the issues raised?

An illuminating experience . . .

I suppose I should have expected it. Arriving on the Edinburgh Fringe 24 hours after the rest of the show, I didn't stand a chance. "Here you are, Karen," they said. "We've found something you can do. We've done all the artistic bit, the writing and rehearsal. Now you can phone the press."

That was Friday. At least, I am pretty sure it was. The longer one spends in Edinburgh during the Festival, the more mornings and afternoons, early evenings and late nights melt into one another, identifiable only in retrospect by the neat chart of productions one had originally intended to see. It must be Friday because I know I missed the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra last night. At noon, Edinburgh is full of distraught aliens, murmuring that today they have missed four shows already.

The press, of course, were predictably offhand. Apart from the features editor's secretary at *The Scotsman*, who was alarmingly efficient and precise, and threw us into total panic by promising to send a reviewer on the opening night.

One of the festival's tribe of reviewers was sitting in the front row on Saturday afternoon, when I went into the theatre's lighting box to find out which switches I was supposed to switch. You can always tell when a reviewer is in the theatre: everything on stage gradually seems more and more shamelessly - not towards the front row where the reviewer is actually sitting - but, like a knight in a painful chess game, about two rows behind and one seat to the left.

The performer was a dapper professor, from the United States, who according to my informant in the lighting box knew everything there was to know about Charles Dickens. Clad at lunch time in a bright blue plastic esgout, the professor had now adopted

Karen Gold reviews a week of life backstage on the Fringe

Victorian dress and an authentic red-tasseled Dickensian lectern (rather incongruously credited to the Inner London Education Authority) for his performance of a two-hour solo reading, *Mr Oscar Colburn*, the influential farmer who chairs the JCO board says that there must be a response soon.

Whatever the outcome, it is safe to predict that more money will go into food and agriculture research in the next few years.

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the most of their time in the Emperor's chair. Among the grim faces, the man from Rock Tartuffe - which, mercifully for him and everyone else, roared itself to a close not long afterwards - was grimmest. "Want to spend an evening on your own?" he muttered. "Well, come and see our show."

Sunday we spent nine hours in the theatre: two of them painting tables and the other seven doing technical run-throughs. And wondering why we came.

Monday morning, we added our contribution to the specially-designed-to-catch-your-eye-and-keep-you-reading leaflets handed out to the queue at the Fringe box office, where would-be audiences were trapped for an average of two hours. One day, an Edinburgh entrepreneur will relieve visitors of this inferno of stunts and leaflets, set up a queuing service, call it something grotesque like Q4U, and make a fortune.

I escaped to the campus novel day of the book festival, to a meet the authors session with Professor David Lodge, slight and urgent-looking - who read from his soon to be published global campus novel *Small World* about academic conference-trotting - and Professor Malcolm Bradbury, a greying little figure, who read from his latest, definitely-not-set-on-the-campus novel, *Rules of Exchange*, which takes place in an eastern European state bearing an uncanny resemblance (the admitted) to a university campus.

The campus novel was a modern form of pastoral, explained David Lodge: it established an artificial setting within which power and sex could be explored. Those of us who were not professors of English and couldn't quite recall the meaning of pastoral, latched on to "power and sex" and laughed.



Zip Dance Company from Bedford College of Higher Education perform part of their Fringe programme

In the evening, when we opened, we were sold out. And the man from *The Scotsman* came too. He laughed quite a lot, and so did everyone else, but the woman two seats along and one row back really had a good time.

Tuesday we realized we were going to have to go through all this another 11 times before we could go home. So, ignoring the various British student productions of *Sylvia Plath* and *Dr Faustus* (in roughly equal numbers) we went to see *Pepper's People*, a compilation of cartoon-character sketches by the American cartoonist Jules Feiffer performed in a church hall by a class from Rio Honda Community College, California, who were stylish, though two-dimensional, had their losses

underwritten by the college, and were earning credits all the while. The cast all jumped off the stage at the end, and began shaking hands with the audience and thanking them for coming. "No wonder," we thought Britishly and left. Wednesday and Thursday. Nothing of note happened: no more press, no review in the paper, Jonathan Miller denied the validity of artistic expression; Sir Robin Day re-wrote journalistic convention; the Americans and Russians went in for tragical-comical-historical-aeronautical in a big way and without acknowledgement to Shakespeare.

Friday . . . at last, and with enthusiasm though qualified praise, *The Scotsman* review appears. We sold out.

The author is reader in physiology at the University of Surrey.

An optimal project is one in which the techniques have either been largely developed and are available for use, or which are not too complicated. I believe that the more senior academics become, the greater their duty to tackle complex, fundamental and controversial projects - leaving the more apparently straightforward ones for their more junior colleagues.

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BOOKS

The story so far

Explaining Hitler's Germany: historians and the Third Reich by John Hiden and John Farquharson. Batsford, £6.95. ISBN 0 7134 43948 4

Nowadays it is almost compulsory when introducing a general text about Nazi Germany to note the staggering amount of literature that has been published on the subject. Just to keep up with the flood of new books on the "Third Reich" would be a full-time occupation especially as publishers rush to make money out of the fiftieth anniversary of Hitler's coming to power. So how is one to make sense of it all?

Clearly John Hiden and John Farquharson have set themselves a daunting task: to take stock of the historiography of National Socialism within the covers of a thin paperback. Not that they are unaware of the difficulties. They freely admit that the huge amount of literature on the subject precludes a fully comprehensive treatment, and have chosen to concentrate on ideological and policy aspects of National Socialism and to bypass much of the recent literature on the military, popular opinion or daily life in Nazi Germany. They reject a purely chronological approach to their historiographical exercise, and have chosen to organize their book not around the various interpretations themselves (as has been done quite successfully by Pierre Ayouberry in his recent book on *The Nazi Question*) but around the historical treatment of certain major issues which have figured most prominently in academic debate. That is to say, it is broad issues rather than the academic debates themselves which structure the book. And, at the same time, the authors insist that theirs is no "mere compilation of historical views", but the "outcome of a critical debate between ourselves and the relevant published material".

The nature of this ambitious task creates difficulties, however. The biggest is that the issues chosen by Hiden and Farquharson around which to organize their book—Hitler's personality, Nazi ideology, the structure of the dictatorship, foreign policy, foreign policy and the economy of Nazi Germany—are closely interconnected. It is impossible to discuss interpretations of Nazi foreign policy, for example, without simultaneously discussing the importance of ideology, the role of Hitler, the development of the economy and rearmament or the structures of government and the state. And as a consequence, it is impossible to follow through the important contributions of historical debates about Nazi Germany within any one of the chapters in the book.

This gives the volume a rather disjointed character, for its structure seems to preclude the systematic treatment of various interpretations. Readers who want to gain a coherent idea of the "theses put forward by Franz Neumann or Karl Dietrich Bracher, Tim Mason or Klaus Hildebrand will have to pull together fragments from various places in the book (a task not made any easier by the absence in the index of the names of the historians discussed). A further consequence is that within the chapters the authors tend to jump from one historian to another at a breathless pace, while the "critical debate" often gets reduced to something like an annotated bibliography. Perhaps this is all right for someone familiar with the field, but how are students (at whom this volume ostensibly is aimed) going to piece it all together?

This poses a particular problem when it comes to explaining some of the more complicated analyses of the "Third Reich", such as those by Hans Mommsen and Martin Broszat. What is needed are clear, unified discussions of such work, especially since most students (like the authors) will find the more straightforward ideological and Hitler-centred explanations much more appealing than difficult pieces about "totalitarianism" or "bureaucratic authoritarianism".

ing or the "progressive parasitic decomposition, of the inherited authoritarian state" (Mommsen). Of course this book is not without its merits. The authors have displayed remarkable industry in reading through a mountain of literature on an unpleasant subject. They have on the whole presented balanced and careful judgments about the conflicting interpretations of many historians. Some of the sections (such as the chapter on foreign policy—Dr Hiden's speciality—and the materials referring to agricultural policy—Dr Farquharson's area of expertise) are particularly clear and informative. And the bibliography (which takes up some 35 pages of this slim volume) should be useful to people teaching in the field (although it probably will be overwhelming to students who do not read German). But the overall impression is that the authors perhaps have bitten off more than they can chew within the 170 pages at their disposal.

Richard Bessel

Richard Bessel is lecturer in history at the Open University.

The Soviet Zone

From Hitler to Ulbricht: the Communist reconstruction of East Germany 1945-46 by Gregory W. Sandford. Princeton University Press, £21.50. ISBN 0 691 05367 7

Books in English about Germany during the first year after defeat have tended to concentrate on developments in the Western Zones. So although Dr Sandford's objective study of the Soviet Zone has no sensational new facts to reveal, it is valuable in that it will stimulate comparisons between the different policies adopted by East and West.

To the surprise of many, including some in their own ranks, the Russians, and the German Communists whom they had been training in Moscow, did not on arrival in Germany proceed to introduce a single-party dictatorship, with public ownership of all significant means of production and distribution. Instead, while putting through the minimum of social reconstruction and Communist control needed to guarantee an anti-fascist and pro-Soviet regime, they offered several concessions calculated to satisfy the more formalistic western definition of democracy. What they set out to create in fact was a people's democracy, on the model already introduced in those other countries of Eastern Europe which they had freed from German domination.

Though this policy was inevitably given a theoretical foundation, the real reason for it was highly pragmatic. Stalin did not want to have a quarrel with his wartime Allies while he was taken up with the task of reconstructing Russia and consolidating Russian control of the peoples' democracies. Moreover, he hoped to exert influence throughout Germany and not just in the Russian Zone. During the war the Americans and British had talked a lot about rooting out Nazism, breaking the power of the military and reducing the political influence of the big landowners and industrialists. The Russians, trained as they were to think in socioeconomic terms, took this to mean eliminating the entire ruling elite of the old society. When they found that this was not happening, they accused the West of not taking democracy seriously. As Colonel Tulpanov, one of the leading Russians, wrote afterwards, "the so-called 'people's democracy' of the western occupation powers in the process of democratization... meant essentially the prevention of democratization, since this process could not develop spontaneously".

The West might in reply have claimed that on the contrary they were taking "democratization" much more seriously than their critics. For they served both the Germans themselves and the completion of denazification and the decision as to how far industry should be nationalized. Dr Sandford curiously fails to mention the action of the British Labor Government in dispossessing all publicly-owned

ers in December 1945 and assuming ownership of the steel industry in August 1946, only to find themselves forced a year later by their economic dependence on America to yield to General Clay's insistence that the freedom of the Germans to decide for themselves on such matters must not be prejudiced in advance.

The Soviet Military Administration had no such scruples. The essence of their tactics was to move fast and get control into trustworthy hands before anyone could organize to stop them. The general presumption since has been that the ultimate goal was full-blown Communism but a good deal would have depended on western reactions; if the Americans and British had been prepared to tolerate a people's democracy throughout Germany, it might have spun out an uneasy existence for quite a time.

But the weakness of the programme was that "democracy" to the Soviet Union meant control of the state by the workers, as (supposedly) embodied in the Communist Party. While they were ready to give non-Communists token positions, they were not prepared to let them interfere in the basic measures of restructuring. Small owners were only allowed to keep their property on condition of using it as they were told. Thus the Russians only succeeded in replacing one form of totalitarianism with another.

The Anglo-Americans sought to substitute a different kind of society but saw that they could not do so by force, since they would then have to prevent the Germans from restoring the old order as soon as they went away. They had to trust that their recent history and the lessons of the process of "re-education" on the whole their liberality has paid off. But the discrepancy of view as to what "democracy" is condemned Germany to partition.

Michael Balfour

Michael Balfour is emeritus professor of European history at the University of East Anglia.

Left-wing illusions

The Crisis of Austrian Socialism: from Red Vienna to Civil War 1927-1934 by Anton Rabinbach. University of Chicago Press, £17.50. ISBN 0 226 70122 2

Dr Rabinbach's purpose is to analyse the "inner crisis" which led to the defeat of the Austrian socialist in the civil war of February 1934. It is therefore essentially a study in the failure of Otto Bauer and the current of Marxism which he represented.

He explicitly disavows himself from earlier criticisms of Bauer's position rooted in the politics of the immediate postwar years, and rejected by the "Independent Left" of the post-1968 period. In its search for new socialist perspectives, this Independent Left eventually "discovered" Otto Bauer and Austro-Marxism. Clearly, this book has also been written with this new interest in mind; to draw attention to the historical context which is essential if Austro-Marxism is to be properly understood.

Dr Rabinbach is able to adduce some new material from state and party archives and from interviews with surviving participants of the struggles here depicted, especially with Ernst Fischer, whom he has devoted a doctoral dissertation. This material generally confirms the accepted view of Bauer's characteristic combination of theoretical optimism with practical pessimism, which prevented him from organizing an effective defence of the earlier democratic achievements from the anti-parliamentary challenges by the anti-democratic right from 1927 onwards. It throws new light on the position of the left opposition within Bauer's party: the history of this opposition, its successive organizational forms, its programmatic declarations, and its continuing efforts to develop the official policy of the last party congress in October 1933, is the central concern of this book.

Bauer's ineffectiveness in defending the democratic achievements of the



"Red Hamburg" on election day 1931. An illustration from Simon Taylor's *Germany 1918-1933: revolution, counter-revolution and the rise of Hitler*, (Duckworth, £6.95).

Austrian labour movement from the challenge of an increasingly aggressive bourgeoisie of his post-1918 theoretical Marxist positions. The 1926 Linz programme, which was largely his work, contained few policies likely to undermine the ascendancy of the right in the provinces and rural areas. It invoked the revolutionary tradition of Marxism and Marxist phraseology, which sounded so ominous in non-Marxist ears, only as a deterrent against any bourgeois temptation to exploit their strength in order to tamper with the constitution.

The left opposition succeeded well enough in giving emotional expression to the optimism and fighting spirit of the social democratic rank and file. But on the evidence here presented, it utterly failed to diagnose and transcend the weakness of the Linz programme. On the contrary, it compounded its weakness by explicitly and wholly identifying the defence of democracy against fascism with the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of working-class power and socialism. At the October 1933 congress, the left opposition ascribed the defeats recently sustained by the movement to the leadership's politics of "pure defence against fascism", and called for an all-out attack on capitalism as the only strategy which could prevent total defeat by a reaction resorting to "revolutionary means". Thus the rank and file pressure for a more determined defence of past achievements was condemned to tragic futility by being linked to a totally unrealistic assessment of immediate perspectives.

When active and violent resistance in February 1934 at last superseded the leadership's policy of retreat without battle, the struggle was not, as Rabinbach rightly concludes, a potentially successful assault on the "external enemy" of the realization that it was the Dollfus government was now fully committed to a fascist course, and the refusal to countenance "disgraceful" in the face of this challenge. In choosing to go down fighting in defence of democratic institutions rather than capitulating to the left social democrats lived up to and continued the tradition established by the Viennese democrats in October 1934; and like them, they movement.

Professor Rabinbach ends with a note about the reasons for the neglect of exile writers only recently rediscovered. Apart from the fact, one reason is that they were simply passed over by the post-war positive and constructive work within German writing for which Professor Rabinbach argues was central to the whole found it more than a little ironic.

Ernst Wangermann

Dr Wangermann is reader in modern history at the University of Leeds.

A stench of blood

German Literature under National Socialism by J. M. Ritchie. Croom Helm, £17.95. ISBN 0 7099 2217 5

In October 1945, Thomas Mann, his famous sweeping denunciation of books produced in Germany between 1933 and 1945 as "worse than war" and not objects one wished to be adding for good measure that "the blood and shame attacks it" which should all be pulped.

This attitude to literature to National Socialism has on the whole prevailed abroad; and Professor Ritchie's is the first full-scale study, subject to be published in English, of the literature makes fascinating reading. The "blood and stench" are with it, but so are the enthusiasm and misguided idealism of the early years. Without falling into the Nazi's brutalist friend-foe way of thinking (Thomas Mann unconsciously did the quotation above) it is, impossible to disentangle the use of motives of those who stayed, from naivety and sincerity to opportunism and intellectual arrogance, which are illustrated in this book.

It is not easy to characterize literature produced in Germany in this period. Even in mainstream Nazi literature there is little that has not appeared in earlier writings. The new, qualitative data may be best thought of as "quantitative" data used by, for example, economists and demographers. However, it is sometimes forgotten that the apparent precision of an econometric model is not so much due to the data as to the rigorous mathematical logic applied to very limited amounts of quantifiable data and certain given, highly debatable, assumptions. Secondly, autobiographies, personal documents and life histories do not seem to require much obvious technical skill to interpret. The emphasis is so often in the story, on "what it was really like" that the material "speaks for itself". There is, of course, a considerable general interest in the diaries of the great, the lurid "confessions" of the notorious and the locally printed pamphlets of "Bygone Muddies" revealed in old photographs, backed up with some amateur local history. But it requires the historian's scholarship to reveal the general significance of these stories.

David Vincent's basic source materials are 142 autobiographies of ordinary working people written between 1790 and 1850. Drawing these together to produce a more general account is a daunting task especially, as Dr Vincent recognizes, since the literary working-class people who took the trouble to write at length about themselves were hardly typical. There is an earnestness, self-righteousness and cloying sentimentality in many accounts, expressed in a stilted style reminiscent of a certain genre of Sunday school stories of virtue overcoming vice and temptation. Self-improvement is a common theme but so also is economic adversity. It is striking how these more articulate and aspiring workers suffered consistently from financial insecurity and regular unemployment or underemployment. "Dundee Factory Boy" sums up the precariousness of working-class life: "The great mass of men and women are like turks on the surface of a mountain river, carried hither and thither as the torrent may lead them".

Dr Vincent is, of course, well aware of the nature, strength and direction of the torrent and he is able to interpret his case studies in the light of this wider historical knowledge, in a way an amateur, however inspired, would be unlikely to achieve. For example, it is pleasing to note that the average age of marriage of the 54 who gave information exactly matches the figure calculated from the Registrar General—26. The fine blend of scepticism and sympathy which Dr Vincent brings to his work for this substantial piece of scholarship, the voices from the past are there, but the postwar generation ignore it.

Alan Bance

Alan Bance is professor of German at the University of Keele.

BOOKS

Voices from the past

Bread, Knowledge and Freedom: a study of nineteenth-century working class autobiography by David Vincent. Methuen, £4.95. ISBN 0 416 34670 7

Documents of Life: an introduction to the problems and literature of a humanistic method by Ken Plummer. Allen & Unwin, £12.95 and £5.95. ISBN 0 04 321029 5 and 321030 9

All history is a kind of fiction; so too are our own biographies. Only we as individuals are aware of our subjective feelings and we may have limited capacities in recalling, in articulating and in interpreting our own experiences. Much of sociology and now, increasingly, social history is about understanding the interaction between biography and history, the tensions between the subjective and the objective, between the individual and society. One way these interactions can be explored is by placing detailed knowledge of a very few people into their wider social context.

This concern with accounts of individual lives, which forms the subject matter of both these books, is often disparaged. First, qualitative data may be thought of as "less true" than the quantitative data used by, for example, economists and demographers. However, it is sometimes forgotten that the apparent precision of an econometric model is not so much due to the data as to the rigorous mathematical logic applied to very limited amounts of quantifiable data and certain given, highly debatable, assumptions. Secondly, autobiographies, personal documents and life histories do not seem to require much obvious technical skill to interpret. The emphasis is so often in the story, on "what it was really like" that the material "speaks for itself". There is, of course, a considerable general interest in the diaries of the great, the lurid "confessions" of the notorious and the locally printed pamphlets of "Bygone Muddies" revealed in old photographs, backed up with some amateur local history. But it requires the historian's scholarship to reveal the general significance of these stories.

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R. E. Pahl

R. E. Pahl is professor of sociology at the University of Kent.

M. A. Crowther's book *The Workhouse System: the history of an English social institution*, first published in 1981, is now issued as a paperback by Methuen at £5.95. It traces the history of the workhouse system from the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1934 to the Local Government Act of 1929, and deals with both administrators and inmates.

attempts to see their own history as part of a larger history. One autobiographer, writing in the context of the Factory Act of 1833, which laid down that children aged between 9 and 13 had to receive two hours' teaching six days a week, describes one of these half-time schools:

It was a cottage at the entrance to the mill yard. The teacher, a poor old man who had done odd jobs of a simple kind for about 12s a week was set to teach the half-timers. Less, however, he should teach too much or the process be too costly he had to stamp washers out of cloth with a heavy wooden mallet on a large block of wood during school hours.

Ken Plummer is committed to a style of sociological analysis which gathers data from the diaries, letters, photographs and memories of individual informants. The life history method is extraordinarily labour intensive: it is not so much stringing a few extended interviews into a consistent narrative, but rather the laborious unravelling of someone's life after months or even years of regular unstructured interviews. Inevitably individuals ramble on and, as Taylor and Cohen have so wittily argued in their book *Escape Attempts*, most people's lives are pretty dull and boring, even if they are professors of sociology. It would be a very foolish sociologist who spent hours and hours with the same informant without having a very good idea of what the eventual account is likely to illustrate or to reveal. I suspect that many social scientists would launch more readily on a sample survey, without being too clear about what they're precisely expecting to do with it, than would commit themselves for a year or more to a single individual or family.

There is no question of arguing that the life history method is better in any absolute sense than many other methods but it is certainly a necessary and complementary technique. As Professor J. R. Dillard remarked in his classic study of the American South, "The danger in a biased person exists only when the researcher does not know he is biased or how he is biased." The issue of bias is acutely important to Plummer, and he recognizes that it cannot be eliminated since "It is precisely through these 'sources of bias' that a 'truth' comes to be assembled".

It has taken us the best part of two centuries to grasp that certain kinds of "truth" or, what comes to the same thing, certain kinds of facts have to coexist without clear resolution. It is no longer possible to accept Sartre's claim that *The Children of Sanchez* by Oscar Lewis renders a mass of literary work redundant. "Why write a novel on his characters or their milieu?" he asks. "They tell us much more by themselves with a much greater understanding and eloquence." Sartre is of course mistaken. Lewis presents and selects what the characters say; they do not control their own stories.

Novelists, producers of television documentaries and vox pop programmes and instant sample surveys all have their part to play in demonstrating the interplay between biography and history, but many of the most interesting questions, such as the connected with the changing political culture of generations, the changing attitudes to work or the renegotiation of gender roles require detailed longitudinal analysis. Ken Plummer's excellent text provides a fine introduction to the life history method. He shows how it flourished in the turbulent Chicago of the early decades of the century and then went out of fashion: I suggest that the method is due for a revival. Seeking patterns from the personal and the private is likely to produce a more liberal and less doctrinaire approach to social reality; the interconnections between history and social scientists' biographies might then become less fraught.

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This photograph of Elizabeth I's tomb in Westminster Abbey is reproduced from *The Ages of Britain*, an illustrated guide to places of historical significance. Edited by Peter Crookston. It is published by Hamish Hamilton at £12.95.

Village society

Land, Family and Inheritance in Transition: Kibworth Harcourt 1280-1700

by Cley Howell. Cambridge University Press, £32.50. ISBN 0 521 24631 8

One of the healthiest recent developments in the social and economic history of "pre-industrial" England has been the attempt by a number of scholars to break down the barriers to historical understanding imposed by the conventional academic division of the subject into medieval and early modern studies.

Cley Howell's study of the Leicestershire village of Kibworth Harcourt between the thirteenth and the seventeenth centuries ranges from manorial administration, landholding and open field agriculture through the impact of the fourteenth-century plague to the development of village landscape, the household structures and the inheritance customs of the villagers. There are scholarly and imaginative reconstruction of the open fields and the husbandry practised in them; an original attempt to derive local price series from inventory valuations; a valuable effort to analyse the domestic economy of the small farmers of the village; an important examination of changing inheritance strategies over four centuries.

However, although the book contains much of real significance it is unfortunately seriously flawed. The discussion is often opaque. Detailed illustration is sometimes heaped on points of relatively minor significance while statements of real importance are inadequately supported. The organization of the book obscures some aspects of the course of change and demands considerable effort on the part of the reader anxious to grasp the main threads of development. The reconstruction of the "peasant household", an issue of considerable importance to the complementary discussions of domestic economy and inheritance, incorporates so many questionable interpretative decisions as to be of very doubtful value, while even if they are accepted, the whole portrayal of the household developmental cycle is undermined by the assumption that this followed a "stem family" pattern.

The momentum of events, combined with the lifting of censorship and removal of much of the earlier machinery of coercion and repression, encouraged individuals and groups from a broad spectrum of England's literate population to advance new ideas and challenge, with varying degrees of radicalism, time-honoured conventions and beliefs. Matters of such

This problem is compounded by a persistent reluctance to involve herself in important contemporary debates on which her work has direct bearing. Her discussion of the medieval village makes no serious attempt to address the sociological issues raised by the work of the Toronto school and its critics. The uninformed reader of her account of the household would hardly be aware that she is discussing matters which are intensely controversial and that she adopts a position which has been seriously challenged, if not totally discredited. Finally, only a handful of allusive comments betray an awareness of the arguments of Alan Macfarlane's *Origins of English Individualism*, though her work is of immediate relevance to his principal thesis and her final interpretative paragraph contains an implicit rebuttal of his case.

Dr Howell might have served her readers better had she written a tighter, sharper book presenting a more disciplined exposition of the hypotheses advanced in her final comments. An opportunity to contribute more substantially to our understanding of the development of English rural society between the thirteenth and the seventeenth centuries has been missed.

Keith Wrightson

Keith Wrightson is lecturer in modern history at the University of St Andrews.

Advancing new ideas

Revolutionary Prose of the English Civil War edited by Howard Erskine-Hill and Graham Storey. Cambridge University Press, £22.50 and £7.50. ISBN 0 521 24404 8 and 28670 0

A Collection of Ranters' Writings from the Seventeenth Century edited by Nigel Smith. Junction Books, £12.50 and £5.95. ISBN 0 86245 100 0 and 101 9

One of the most dramatic aspects of the English Revolution (as a few recent playwrights have recognized) is the way in which heterodox beliefs were accorded an unprecedented freedom of expression.

The momentum of events, combined with the lifting of censorship and removal of much of the earlier machinery of coercion and repression, encouraged individuals and groups from a broad spectrum of England's literate population to advance new ideas and challenge, with varying degrees of radicalism, time-honoured conventions and beliefs. Matters of such

fundamental importance as the distribution of power and wealth, the rights and liberties of the individual and the validity of conventional morality all received a fresh, and occasionally revolutionary, reappraisal.

Extracts from some of the radical political literature of the period 1642-60 are provided by Howard Erskine-Hill and Graham Storey in their volume in the "Cambridge English Prose Texts" series. With the exception of Henry Parker's *Observations Upon Some of His Majesties Late Answers and Expresses*, all the works cited have appeared in modern editions, but the value and purpose of this anthology as a teaching aid lies in the way it makes examples of such literature readily available and permits initial comparison of content and literary merit to be drawn. Characteristically, the issues raised in the pamphlets and debates were responses to political crisis or a particular turning-point in the sequence of events—the origin and character of monarchy; the right of resistance to the king; the source of legitimacy for a government with, or without, a monarch; and the shape of the constitution once the traditional one had been discarded.

In his *Observations*, Parker develops a theory of parliamentary sovereignty which assigns monarchy a subordinate place in the constitution. Extracts from the Putney Debates, which never cease to fascinate the modern reader, focus on the central question of the franchise and three post-Putney Leveller tracts, written by Walwyn, Lilburne and Overton, demonstrate their distinctive styles as defenders of liberty against any reassertion of tyranny. Milton's mastery of political polemics is established by two tracts, one defending tyrannicide in 1649 and the other on republicanism on the very eve of the Restoration. James Harrington's advocacy in 1659 of a balanced gentry republic, which would safeguard religious and political liberty, recalls his earlier, and most famous work, *Oceana*. The collection is completed with Gerrard Winstanley's call for social justice by allowing the poor to cultivate their common lands in communal simplicity.

Winstanley specifically denied the charge that "we Diggers hold women to be common", only too anxious to dissociate himself from the sexual license practised by some members of that most extraordinary sect, the Ranters. The chief writings of the Ranters have been prepared for publication by Nigel Smith to whom a great debt of gratitude is due in making accessible for the first time, to a wider readership than the specialist, some of the rarest and most remarkable of mid-seventeenth-century tracts. No one familiar with work on the Ranters by Christopher Hill or A. L. Morton will need to be convinced of the striking novelty and significance of this particular manifestation of radical thought. The Ranters represent the extreme development of antihumanism and millenarianism in the English Revolution.

In contrast to the writers in the previous collection, the Ranters possessed no organization or programme as such. Their appeal was to a new spiritual awareness, an awakening to respond to the inner light of God dwelling within each man as a prelude to Christ's spiritual return to earth. Ranter beliefs could lead to a burning sense of social injustice in a man like Abiezer Coppe, whose writings occupy pride of place in the collection, or justify sexual license in the case of Laurence Clarkson, who provides entertaining autobiographical details and a novel perspective upon lower-class religion. The main works of Joseph Salmon and the most moderate of the Ranters, Jacob Bauthumley, round off the collection.

Ranter prose is characterized by a passionate intensity, and, within the limits of language, gives expression to what they believed was the direct inspiration of God. In their intensity of language and the urgent desire to throw off the shackles of convention an affinity with the works of Blake and D. H. Lawrence is detected by John Carey in his foreword. Having been rescued from a contemptuous conignment to the lunatic fringe by historians, Ranter writings are now receiving an equally well-deserved literary appreciation.

Keith Lindley

Keith Lindley is lecturer in history at the New University of Ulster.

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Further details and application forms from the Personnel Officer, Brighton Polytechnic, Moulsecoomb, Brighton, BN2 4AT. Tel: Brighton 663066 (ext. 2400).

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Closing date: 30 September 1983.

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Further details and application form may be obtained on receipt of SAE from:

The Director's Secretary,
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Higher Education,
Walledown Road,
Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB.

Research
& StudentshipsDepartment of Civil Engineering
Institute of Engineering Studies

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited from candidates with good Honours Degrees in Soil Science, Chemistry, Physics or a related subject to join a team undertaking fundamental research into the reclamation of poorly drained saline soils. This is a study of soil movement.

Tenable for 3 years from October, 1983. Commencing salary £3,010 per annum. Higher Degree (Ph.D.) registration encouraged.

Further particulars available from Dr. D. W. Rye, Institute of Engineering Studies, University of Southampton, SO9 9BT to whom applications, together with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent by 23 September 1983. THES11

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Colleges of
Further Education

Inner London
Education Authority
Avery Hill College,
Bexley Road, Eltham,
S.E.9 2PQ
Tel: 01-850 0081

SENIOR LECTURER/ LECTURER II CRAFT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Required from January 1984. A good honours degree in a relevant subject, preferably with a relevant higher degree, is essential. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students on the BSc (Hons) Craft Design and Technology course. He/she should have a minimum of five years' experience in a design or technology environment. Salary: £10,635 - £14,149 plus 1983 Inner London Allowance.

Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, Inner London Education Authority, 1000 High Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3JF. Tel: 0494 511111.

Closing date: 30 September 1983.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
HM Inspectors of Schools

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications are invited from men and women, preferably aged between 35 and 45, for appointment as HM Inspector of Education and Science and normally carry a general as well as a specialist assignment. Their work primarily involves inspecting and advising educational institutions, but also includes consulting with local education authorities and contributing to in-service training.

Vacancies exist for inspectors specialising in:

Construction, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Ref - 7/83

Construction specialists will be involved with all aspects of construction education at craft, technician and professional level. The level of work for engineering specialists will range from operative/craft education and training courses to post-graduate studies.

Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biology - 8/83

Those appointed will be involved in the inspection of applied chemistry, applied biology and biochemistry courses with a broad range of type and level.

Adult Education, Social Science and Social Work - 9/83

Adult education specialists will be involved in the inspection of current activities such as mid-career vocational up-dating and inner city education development. Social science and social work specialists will inspect a wide range of courses for those in social service employment including post-registration nursing and para-medical courses.

Applicants must have had considerable experience and responsibility in their specialist area and have had an active interest in its applications. Appropriate academic qualifications, teaching and industrial/professional experience are essential.

Starting salary is within the range £14,400-£20,800 (up to £1260 higher in London). Promotion prospects.

Application forms (to be returned by 14th October 1983) and further information may be obtained from Mr. E. D. Foster, Department of Education and Science, Room 18/17, Elizabeth House, 38 York Road, London SE1 7PH. Telephone 01-428 8222, extensions 2785 or 2237. Please quote the appropriate reference.

ilea Inner London Education Authority

Chief Inspector

Salary £26,307-£29,088 (under review)

Inclusive of £1,284 London Weighting Allowance

With the retirement of Dr. Michael Birchmore this post in the country's largest LEA is vacant. The Chief Inspector is responsible for the maintenance and development of the professional and academic work in all the Authority's schools, colleges, and other institutions and the professional management and leadership of the Inspectorate and Schools' Psychological Service. Reporting directly to the Education Officer, the Chief Inspector is supported by teams of subject and phase inspectors (138 staff) and the Schools' Psychological Service (16 staff, led by the Principal Educational Psychologist). The Chief Inspector is graded Chief Officer and with the three Deputy Education Officers forms the senior management team responsible to the Education Officer.

Applicants will need to have wide and varied teaching and professional experience in educational institutions and have held a senior management position. Successful advisory and/or inspectorial experience will be a desirable additional qualification as will be the capacity to work in an Authority facing new and challenging developments.

Application forms and further details obtainable from the Education Officer (EO/Edels 13) Room 363/4, The County Hall, London SE1 7PH. Completed applications to be returned to the above address by 30 September 1983.

All applications will be given equal consideration irrespective of sex, age, disabilities, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, marital status, sexual orientation, family responsibility, trade union activity, political or religious belief.

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ASSOCIATE DEPUTY
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE
The American College
College of London

An expanding international liberal arts university college with students from over 70 nations is seeking candidates for the post of Associate Deputy for External Affairs. Areas of responsibility include activities in student recruitment, public relations and alumni relations. The post will be based at the college's premises in London, providing a unique opportunity for those with a background in international relations and a knowledge of American higher education.

Applicants should have previous experience in recruitment, Public Relations and possess good communication and writing skills. Administrative experience, including knowledge of computerized records and fundraising would be helpful. International and multicultural experience highly desirable. Knowledge of American style university education is essential. Applicants must be prepared to travel.

Salary range for the position is £10,000 to £12,000 depending on experience. Submit detailed resume with names and addresses of at least three referees to Mr. Dale R. Mitchell, Deputy to the President for External Affairs, Richmond College, Queens Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 0EP, England.

Further details from: General Secretary, American College, United Kingdom, Richmond College, Queens Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 0EP. Tel: 071-221 1110.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 28 September 1983. This post is a re-advertisement. THS

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HEAD OF SCHOOL PROCESS ENGINEERING

(Salary \$46,977 pa)

Applications are invited from mechanical engineers for the position of Head of the School of Process Engineering, which has become vacant due to the retirement of the present Head.

The School incorporates the Departments of Chemical Engineering (Head - Dr T N Smith), Mechanical Engineering (Head - Dr G H Moore) and Metallurgy (Head - Dr T Pyle), and is one of eight Schools in the Division of Engineering and Science. The School of Process Engineering offers professional degrees, Graduate Diplomas and Masters Degrees in engineering and metallurgy.

In addition to providing academic and professional leadership for the efficient conduct of the School, the Head will be required to teach in an area of expertise and provide leadership in the maintenance and development of industrial consultancies, projects and research, particularly through the State's proposed Technology Park and Product Innovation Centre.

The successful applicant will have a strong academic and professional background in Mechanical Engineering, substantial industrial experience, including mechanical design and administrative experience at a senior level.

Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Clarendon House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1E 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department 2/254, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

University of Zululand



Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for appointment to the following post.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION LECTURER

Lecturer required to teach English language and some Methodology of English language teaching to undergraduate teacher trainees at the university.

Applications invited from honours graduates with a recent post-graduate qualification in applied linguistics and relevant ESL teaching experience overseas, preferably in Africa. Some teacher-training experience would also be an advantage.

The initial appointment will be on a 3 year contract. Salary on the scale R12 657 - 22 173 (£1 = R1.75 at current rates).

Application forms and further details from: Dr. R. Ellis, St. Mary's College, Waldergrove Road, Twickenham, Middlesex - England to reach him on or before 30 September 1983. N.B. Telephone 01-9771594 for application forms.

Registrar, UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair of Hebrew Studies

Applications are invited for this chair for appointment on 1 January 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter. The scope of teaching and research within the Department of Hebrew Studies includes Hebrew literature, language and culture from the earliest times to the present.

Preference will be given to candidates who show evidence of scholarship in the area of Hebrew language and literature.

Appointment will be made irrespective of sex, race or religion, and according to qualifications and experience on the salary scale R23 109-24 045 x 1 036-30 255 p.a. In addition a service bonus of nearly one month's salary is payable annually.

Staff benefits include 75% remission of tuition fees for dependants at certain conditions, a pension fund and medical aid and group life insurance scheme.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, stating research interests and publications, experience, present salary, the date duty could be assumed and the names and addresses of three referees.

Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Clarendon House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1E 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department 2/254, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN Lecturer in Linguistics

Applications are invited for this above post vacant from 1 January 1984. Appointment will be made according to qualifications and experience on the salary scale R23 109-24 045 x 1 036-30 255 p.a. In addition a service bonus of nearly one month's salary is payable annually.

Applicants should be qualified to teach lower-level undergraduate general linguistics, and to teach syntax and semantics to honours level. A research interest in, and ability to undertake postgraduate supervision in the latter two fields may be an advantage.

Staff benefits include 75% remission of tuition fees for dependants at certain conditions, a pension fund, medical aid, and group life insurance scheme.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, stating present salary, research interests and publications, the date duty could be assumed, and the names and addresses of three referees whom the University may approach.

Further information should be obtained either from the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Clarendon House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1E 7HE, or from the Registrar (Attention: Appointments Office), Department 2/254, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.

The following vacancy exists in the Hospitals Department of the Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope.
Groote Schuur Hospital
Observatory/University of Cape Town

SENIOR BIO-MEDICAL ENGINEER/ERGONOMIST

Salary: R28 185 (fixed) per annum, plus an allowance R3 105

QUALIFICATIONS: Engineer with a postgraduate qualification in ergonomics or similar subject, e.g. human factors, and with a number of years of experience of the application of ergonomics, at least a few of which should have been in a relatively senior position. Applications will be welcomed from persons who do not meet this specification exactly; however, all candidates should possess a master's degree as a minimum qualification.

DUTIES: The post has both hospital service and academic commitments. The hospital service commitment covers the development of advanced instrumentation and measurement techniques for use in health care and in medical research, and the design and development of hospital equipment and facilities generally and, particularly, of aids for the disabled. Teaching is concentrated at postgraduate levels.

The department has developed and is developing clinical service and research links with specific departments in the University/Hospital and while the successful candidate will be expected to provide support in these areas, he/she will be expected to develop ergonomics activities on a wider scale in both institutions. This includes, particularly, assistance with the planning of the equipment, facilities and environments in the new Groote Schuur Hospital, on which work started in February 1983, and further development of the teaching of ergonomics to the first students for which were enrolled in January 1983.

Additional information may be obtained from Professor G. G. Jansz, Head, Department of Bio-Medical Engineering. Application should be made (in duplicate) on the prescribed form (Staff 23) which is obtainable from the Medical Superintendent, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7921. Completed application forms with curriculum vitae should be forwarded to the Medical Superintendent, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory to reach her before 30 September 1983.

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UNIVERSITY OF NATAL Department of Philosophy PIETERMARITZBURG SOUTH AFRICA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the following post.

SENIOR LECTURER

The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

The salary will be in the range R18 657 - 24 045 per annum. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

Application forms, with particulars of the post and information on pension, medical group insurance, staff housing, leave and other benefits, should be sent to the Registrar, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, 3208, South Africa, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Scholarships are available to outstanding university graduates registered in, or admissible to, master's and doctoral degree programmes by research at the National University of Singapore.

The Scholarships are tenable for one year in the first instance and, subject to satisfactory progress, renewable annually for another two years.

The Scholarships carry monthly emoluments ranging from \$500 to \$81,100 (£1.00 = S\$3.20 approximately); the actual emolument is determined on the candidate's qualifications and experience. No travel or other allowance is provided.

Research Scholars may assist for not more than three hours a week in the Departments to which they are attached for which they will be remunerated.

Application forms may be obtained from: Mr Roland Sharma, Director NUS Overseas Office, 5 Chesham Street, London SW1, United Kingdom.

The Registrar, National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore 0511. Applications must be received by THE REGISTRAR, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE by 31 October 1983.

Rhodes University Grahamstown, South Africa

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History.

1. Professor of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

2. Deputy Director/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

3. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

4. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

5. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

6. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

7. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

8. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

9. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

10. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

11. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

12. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

13. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

14. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

15. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

16. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History. The successful applicant should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

Universities cont

University of Surrey Department of Mechanical Engineering RESEARCH OFFICER -ROBOTICS

A vacancy exists for a well qualified graduate with suitable experience to be actively involved in an SRA sponsored research project concerned with the design and development of a robot tracking instrument for dynamic robot performance measurement.

The successful candidate will be required to conduct experimental testing with a minimum of supervision.

The appointment is for one year, which might be extended a further two years, and the salary is £6,510 per annum on the Research and Academic scale.

Further particulars can be obtained from Professor G. A. Roberts, Director of the Robotics Research Unit, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3JH, by whom applications should be received not later than 31 October 1983.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.

The salary scale for the post is £6,510 - £11,000 per annum on the Research and Academic scale.

Applicants should be qualified to teach the History of Ideas, the History of Philosophy, the History of the Mind and the History of Science.

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Academic Director Diplomatic Service Language Centre

The Centre provides in-house tuition in central London in French, German, and Spanish for members of HM Diplomatic Service, employing one full-time lecturer and a pool of part-time tutors, and arranges tuition in other (mainly non-European) languages at educational establishments in the UK and overseas.

The person appointed to this newly-created post will advise on general language training policy, supervise its detailed implementation, assist in developing syllabuses and teaching and testing methods, supervise and assist in teaching, and administer the Centre and its staff.

Candidates, normally aged between 35 and 55, must have a good honours degree or its equivalent in languages or linguistics, a first-class knowledge of one or more West European languages in addition to English, and relevant teaching experience, preferably at the tertiary level. Knowledge of a non-European language or of linguistics, experience in TEFL or audio-visual training techniques, and overseas work experience would be advantageous.

Starting salary will be between £16,790 and £18,700, according to qualifications and experience. The appointment will be for a period of 5 years initially with the possibility of its being extended or made permanent.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 30 September 1983) write to Civil Service Commission, Alton House, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1BS, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. G/6047.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Adult Education

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING The Board wishes to appoint an ADULT EDUCATION OFFICER as soon as possible after 1st January 1984.

The post is open to communicant church members, lay or ordained, with qualifications and/or experience in theological teaching and adult education. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Diocesan Director of Education within a team of five full-time officers. Applicants must be capable of co-ordinating the present successful Bishop's Certificate course and of developing new kinds of lay education and training in co-operation with other diocesan officers and parochial clergy.

Salary: Standard diocesan stipend (at present £5450) and housing allowance (£2200 pa) or house free of rent and rates.

Full details from: The Director of Education, Diocesan Education Centre, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln LN1 3DY. Tel: Lincoln (0532) 42121.

Closing date for applications is Friday 7th October 1983.

THE 184

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

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Leverhulme Report

A four-page edited version of the final report of the programme. First published in the *THES* 27 May, 1983. Price 25p.

Information Technology

An eight-page report on the latest developments of IT in our universities, polytechnics and colleges. First published in the *THES* 17 June, 1983. Price 80p.

Education & Training for Employment

A further report on this very important area of education examines developments which have taken place since last year. First published in the *THES* 1 July, 1983. Price 70p.

All prices include postage and packing within the UK, but not hand delivery or Red Star delivery.

Enquiries about other reprints
available should be sent to
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Information Technology - price 80p each ☐
Education & Training for Employment - price 70p ☐

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Don's diary

Friday

Arrived Quito after 27-hour trip, including nine hours in various transit lounges. (Must remember to question travel agent more closely next time he offers a special, cheap deal). Impressed to find special "International Psychology Conference" signposts at the small airport but discover I am the only one taking any notice of them. Conference courier eventually transports me to hotel.

Welcome at hotel by colleagues from Venezuela, who established it was eight years since we last met and proceeded to catch up on their research on community development. Over dinner (breakfast? given the six hour time change) in surprisingly cheap, unmarked indigenous restaurant, found the local cocktail, a pisco sour, turned out to be very pleasant. Begin to learn the real political problems of doing social research in Venezuela, making Keith Joseph seem almost benign.

Saturday

Still on English time, so up early to join trip to native Indian market another 2000 feet up in the Andes. Notice feeling of light-headedness and slight headache. Can't decide if it's the 9,000 feet altitude of Quito, the effects of the journey or the extra pisco sour last night. Stood on the equator for group photograph, discussing the way such a tourist prospect would have been exploited in the US, but pleased it was only marked by a simple roadside plaque in Ecuador.

As we got higher in the Andes, grew expansive on developments in our research theories and methods. Tried to explain the use of regional hypotheses to interpret multi-dimensional scaling of questionnaire items to the English-speaking South Americans in the group, interspersed with discussion of local vegetation and the marianhu trade route through the Andes. Bought considerable amount of Indian wall hangings and clothes in the market, bartering fountain pen along the way. Realized will have to buy another suitcase to take it all home. Had shoes polished in the main street, discovered they were a colour I did not remember seeing before.

Sunday

Colleagues from New York emerged at breakfast and we agreed to walk up into the Andes outside of the city. Now feel acclimatized and I am curious to see if they notice any ill-effects of the altitude. On the way up I am reminded that US academics' experience of university politics is far more soul-searing than my British experience, even with the UGC cuts. Am pleased to learn that colleagues are feeling their way towards more intensive methodologies, and they are intrigued by our own forays into those murky waters.

Attend opening ceremony of conference at the Parliament building. Get told off by guide for refusing to walk down 100 yards of red carpet between daintily blue uniformed guards. Surprised by vigour and brevity of opening speeches and the neat way the vice president of the republic linked the International Conference on Psychology to slogans about the freedom and progress of his people. Over whiskies and nasty sweet champagne gathering afterwards aggressively tackled "Grand Old Man" of US research, just arrived from the field, on the primitiveness of his approach and get invited to join him on his platform on Wednesday. Perhaps I am not acclimatized to the altitude yet.

Monday

Discover left knee still weak from the stroll in the Andes. Have sandals polished. Armed guards keep me from my lecture until I return with my conference badge. Eventually settle down to give lecture on the design of questionnaire environments, with slow, sequential translation into Spanish. Initial audience of 20 or so, including 1000, swells to 200 at the end when the 1000 South Americans hear there is

translation. Feel sure my jokes must work much better in translation.

Attend interesting lecture on responsiveness in conversations. Make note to contact lecturer and get some help on our analysis of telephone calls. Hear "Grand Old Man" give a presentation on society organized on the experimental method. Delight to hear him questioned on how long psychologists could remain neutral professionals in such a context.

Tuesday

Join symposium on large scale spatial cognition, entirely devoted to US and Canadian research. Put faces to a number of names and learn of one or two interesting developments against a background of remarkably tedious work. Main US contributors seem to have arrived the night before and to be planning to go off on vacation soon after the symposium. I am called on to comment on the presentations and find myself being much more critical than I had intended, but everyone seems to take it in a friendly spirit.

During the afternoon visit a craft museum which turned out to be selling everything on display, giving the place a vitality unknown in conventional museums. Explored further possibilities of Venezuelan colleagues coming to study with us and of exchange visits with US colleagues.

Wednesday

Breakfast with senior administrator from Mexico City University and agree to ways in which we at Surrey could help them establish a graduate programme in environmental psychology. Horrified to discover that the university has about half a million students. Lunch with psychologist from Reno University and learn how it is possible to earn enough through gambling to pay your way through university. During afternoon taken on tour of the city by local planner. I am fascinated by the "habitation su-normal", solid brick and concrete built, illegal settlements on the edge of the city. Looking at them it is difficult to believe they have no planned or social organization, no water or policing. But the spirit of free enterprise allows them to buy in electricity, to establish shops and make use of good building materials.

Thursday

Visit native market with Venezuelan and US colleagues. Sort out two different PhD proposals among the butcher, meat, hens and pigs for sale. Clarify developments in the theory of place among the fruit and vegetables. Learn of interesting studies of mother-child interactions in public places, among clothes stalls. Try on various Andean trillies but none fit. Mother of British Council Ecuador scholar who cannot find a clinical psychology course in Britain makes contact through my guide. Discover that conference organizers are under attack from their left-wing colleagues for having too many speakers from the US.

Friday

Meet British Council scholar's mother and promise to try to "help on her return. Buy suitcase. Say farewells and thank you. About six separate people corner me to ask detailed questions about presentations, usually confusing what I have said with what others said at the same session. Promise to send them all reprints.

On flight back, by careful planning manage to get seat with leg room. (Film is same as that shown on the trip out.) Customs at Heathrow decide, for the first time over my experience, to search my luggage with a fine toothed comb. They obviously think I've been on an exotic trip somewhere. Can't think why.

David Canter
The author is a lecturer in psychology at the University of Surrey and directs the MSc course in environmental psychology.

Celebration of the Festival

It is the critic's nightmare but a public joy. It would be hard to follow the official Edinburgh Festival: six operas, 20 orchestral concerts, 21 chamber concerts or recitals, two ballet companies, nine plays, as well as exhibitions and lectures, over three weeks. But to grasp the Fringe is beyond human possibility. Last year the Festival office claimed that 460,000 tickets were sold for 7,202 performances by 494 participating groups and this year there are more than 500 groups in the programme.

Incidentally, last year's figures would give an average of 63.78 people attending each performance. Common sense would either suggest that tens of thousands of tickets are thrown away on reading *The Scotsman's* reviews or that huge numbers of purchasers simply got lost or else that the average and the median are very far apart.

And that is not all by any means. The new Fringe Festival is officially part of the Festival proper, but it has led an odd and merry life of its own in a huge marquee in Charlotte Square where the smell of chilled cheap white wine is stronger than that of binder's glue. It seems to stand on its own legs, more or less, with "meet the author" as staple fare, much as the large Film Festival does and the short but strident topical Jazz Festival.

And that is not all by any means. The Fringe has for several years broken right out of the programme and the bourgeois restraints of the programme, even the new orthodoxy of a specified acting "space", quite simply into the streets. Most promenade or street theatre is, in fact, done indoors and is pretty tedious, but when it bursts out on the pavement of the Royal Mile or Princes Street, it can be magic, especially the old simple things, the white-faced mimes, the conjurers and the apprentice acrobats (so much more exciting when there is a good chance they will fall).

Buskers abound as well as Fringe groups emerging to find an audience and peddle their wares. On the first Sunday, the organization tried to catch up with the movement (like the Polish government) by organizing an "Open Air Free Fringe" in Holyrood Park under the massy Salisbury Crags.

Problems of keeping an open secret

First, I signed the official declaration on form E74 (code 5-74-0); then, my attention was formally drawn to the following "provisions on secrecy": "It is an offence for any official to disclose, orally or in writing, to any unauthorized person any information he has acquired through his official duties or to which he has access owing to his official position."

But these provisions on secrecy were, I was informed, to apply to "non-secret as well as secret information". But, I was reassured, "there is, however, no objection to [an official] repeating information which has already officially been made public". So, in case I had been worrying about this (and with threats of life imprisonment under the Official Secrets Act, I had), as Barbara Cartland's political adviser, repeat the releases without fear of prosecution: "A great relief."

The quotations I have given above, though selective, do full justice to the lunatic Kafkaesque flavour of the rules on official secrecy which, the newspapers tell us, Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, is now seeking to enforce with ever more blood-curdling threats against a flood of leaks from the official machine.

In 1811, 150 calico printers and owners of bleaching establishments petitioned the House of Commons to have stealing from their premises removed from the list of capital offences. These otherwise hard-faced fellows, rather than suddenly going soft with discretion, sent their bad law practice unrepentant. People were unwilling to give evidence, and where they were, their words were



Bernard Crick

together with a kite flying exhibition. I cannot vouch for the quality of either, since I was unavoidably delayed at the inaugural press conference of the Scottish Malt Whisky Society (of which I am a shareholder as well as the companion of one of its directors, so I must declare my interest) but it certainly tied up the traffic in the whole of central Edinburgh for three hours.

At the other end of the market from the buskers these days you can simply hire for two nights the Dominion Cinema, Morningdale, without let or Fringe, if you are George Melly. I doubt if "I'm the Hot Dog Man" or "I've Got the Look But You've Lost the Key" has been heard in Morningdale before - since his last visit. But Charlie McNair, Edinburgh's own best jazz man, will play and sing "Nuts" at the Dragopara Hotel (four star) every Sunday night - if you ask him nicely.

So it is all a long time since the only Fringe was at the Traverse Theatre from which for several years in the mid 60s Jim Haynes, an American apostle of "anti-theatre" staged anti-theatrical happenings. The Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland had been lent after grave deliberations to the Festival most proper for a well-ventilated and edifying play. The wretched Haynes succeeded in infiltrating into the gallery a naked woman in a wheelchair.

Certainly in those days, the Edinburgh District Council took an excessive interest in "the tone" of the Festival and long tried, like Sisyphus, to empty out the dregs of the Fringe. But by now

the elders have long sold the poor churches are in desperate need of the very Kirk itself, demand one supply, the capitalist ethic chips in at Protestantism and the incongruity of the offerings to their backdrop has long ceased to be commented.

Some of the Fringe is of high quality. The Assembly Rooms in George Street, which has five venues, a bar and a bar, has become almost an official Fringe. The performers are real professionals: Victor Spinney (one of Joan Littlewood's old hands) did a one man stand, Nola Lee, a mime, did a one woman stand by an artist but she needs new material, the incomparable National Theatre, Brent did *The Messiah* - just a wide-boys and a donkey.

The Little Lyceum tries to do the same, very selective, but with only one stage, people don't wander in on off chance. One of the most popular veterans of the Fringe, the heraldic who did the one-man *Lord of the Rings* in 70 minutes, has had disappointing houses these days for his *Mr. Hyde* and *Mr. Hyde*, despite his local fame.

And there is good music on the Fringe. I heard twice (that's not a criticism) a new Edinburgh chamber group, the Concert Party, William Walton's setting of El Sitwell's poems *Poems*, chanted and read by Neil Cunningham and Virginia Dixon better than I've ever heard. Always, the Fringe and the festival proper feed off each other, have events that sound like the other and they share common venues. The concept "Edinburgh Festival" embrace both. Even if the festival proper is visibly starved of money, really great opera and theatre companies no longer come) it will be up by its lesser happenings.

So much of it is sustained by the market: the huge numbers who come to this festival holiday of the city, the most beautiful of cities. The Fringe has just resigned because of lack of support from the district council, are almost as negative and ungovernable as Stratford is to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre: all they can get the Military Tattoo and the opera of Handel's *Fireworks* Music.

Commercial sponsorship is good for the big events and will double the Fringe. But no set of officials now kill it. It has got completely out of control for overall comprehension, astounding and marvellous.

which I saw a mass of Cabinet papers classified "Secret" or above, the revelation of only a tiny handful of them would have been damaging to national security if they had been heard of by the Russian Ambassador, himself. It is not national security but the real criteria for classification are documents (outside the defence and foreign affairs area), but embargoed or non-disclosure of the government party.

There are, however, two additional reasons. Robert Armstrong, a leaked letter against leaks, repeats that, quite separately from the rules under the Official Secrets Act, officials have duties, expected of any employees in any walk of life, to observe confidences acquired in the course of their employment. This is unquestionable as a proposition: but it fails to take account of the special position of the Civil Service, who since the 19th century, have been infused with the ethic of serving a public interest higher than the immediate interests of the government of the day.

But perhaps the greatest danger to all has been done to the legitimacy of the official secrets laws by ministers themselves, through the organized deception and hypocrisy of the civil system. Under this system, no official may ministers provide information, record information to journalists, or formal "lobby" briefings of journalists are held by ministers - including the Prime Minister - on the verge of the occasion will be disclosed. So far, the public is concerned, but the occasion will be disclosed. So far, the public is concerned, but the occasion will be disclosed.

Government cannot operate without sensible laws to protect against disclosures of information about real national security and defence. It is time that the government to swallow the fact that the present bad laws are more leaks, not less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The criteria for an architectural reputation

Sir, - I would like to congratulate Messrs Roxburgh and Arvanitakis for their letters in *The THES* (August 19) on the subject of peer group review and the criteria that should properly apply. As Dr Roxburgh points out, research measured by numbers of publications is meaningless, as a publication can be an article in a refereed journal, a conference report, a book review or a popular article.

In the case of architecture (Mr Arvanitakis's subject) there are no refereed journals, except in historical subjects. Most of the literature is "trade" literature, with the exception of the architectural "glossies", which are picture-magazines with the minimum of text and the maximum of photographs and drawings of projects. Most of the academic journals on architectural history, architectural psychology and architectural education

have been started by groups of academics who had difficulty in getting published, and now publish each other. For those pursuing architectural studies which cannot get published, there is always the "occasional paper" self-printed on a photocopying machine.

A third correspondent in the August 19 issue, John Adams, expresses his disquiet at the increasing emphasis being placed on research and publications "particularly when these are only loosely connected to the lecturer's professional expertise." He adds that "it appears that educational establishments are to be judged by, and perhaps, funded on account of, doctors in abstract subjects."

In the case of architecture schools this is dangerous; as Mr Arvanitakis points out, students attend schools of architecture to train as architects, and the majority of polytechnic lecturers

are practising architects. Higher academic qualifications and a publications record is no index of professional competence or practical experience in an executive subject. Performance in research is not performance in architecture.

Indeed, Professor A. MacMillan, University Grants Committee and NAB member, put it very forcefully at a recent Leicester conference: "In most academic departments the higher the qualification obtained, the better qualified the candidate will be in the discipline and the more able to talk for it. The reverse can be the case in architecture - a PhD in architecture may imply an inability to perform as an architect."

Yours faithfully,
MILES SCOTT,
38a Cranley Gardens,
London SW7.

Welsh hostilities

Sir, - Professor Gordon Leff (Summerhill pupil 1934-1943) is generally to be commended for his succinct overview and friendly analysis of Jonathan Croall's new biography of A. S. Neill (*THES*, July 15).

His review was flawed, however, by his need (as an academic no doubt) to call attention to certain "errors" in Croall's book. Unfortunately, he neglected to apply the canons of his own discipline (history) to his selection of "errors", substituting reliance upon his own limited experience.

Leff castigates Croall (gently to be sure) for "transposing the fights with the 'town ginks' from Leiston (where they were only a minor and occasional phenomenon) to Wales where relations were always peaceable..."

My experience supports Croall. In 1943-1944 there was virtually a state of war between the Welsh (Ffestiniog) locals and the English (Summerhillian) interlopers. I distinctly remember that, for fear of Welsh assaults, evening expeditions to the village fish and chip shop had to be bodyguarded by a couple of our biggest boys - who received free fish and chips for their services. Eventually, after a kid had his head split open during a brick fight, the authorities cracked down on these hostilities.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. HEALEY,
Director,
Centre of Japanese Studies,
University of Sheffield.

Language demand

Sir, - John Hart's article "Tongue Tied" (*THES* September 2) makes a cogent point, but Mr Hart is unduly gloomy when he says that Britain produces only enough graduates in Japanese "to occupy the fingers of one hand, with several fingers to spare". In 1983 there were 10 graduates in Japanese studies from Sheffield University alone; graduates from Cambridge, Oxford and London (the only other universities that offer full degree courses in Japanese at present) would bring the national total up to about 30.

This is a small number, of course, but it is the result of steady growth over recent years: Mr Hart's statement probably would have been true 15 years ago.

There is an increasing demand from students for courses in this subject (over 150 applications to this centre for entry in October 1983) and an increasing demand from employers for this kind of expertise. It is to be hoped that current pressures on the universities will not inhibit the growth in this subject that is clearly needed.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. HEALEY,
Director,
Centre of Japanese Studies,
University of Sheffield.

Commonwealth reports

Sir, - Twenty-six universities in Nigeria (special report on Commonwealth universities, *THES*, August 12), may not mean much to most of us, but should reveal Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, founded over 20 years ago, now with the biggest student enrolment in black Africa. (If you doubt its existence, check the advert for staff in the *For* *THES*.)

For your records: Bayero University is in Kano, and the University of Nigeria is sited on two campuses, at Nsukka and Enugu, both a long way from the capital.

Yours sincerely,
SUSANNAH M. CROW,
Production Editor,
Institute of Education
ABU, Zaria, Nigeria.

Sir, - In *The THES* of August 12 (page 22) there was an article on the university situation in Singapore written by Mary Price. I wish to point out that there are two inaccuracies that need to be amended:-

Polytechnic funding

Sir, - One imagines that *The THES* is well able to defend itself against the strictures of John Bevan, but allow me to support your decision to print the funding for polytechnics.

The attitude of the present Government towards higher education is well enough known and the issue of student numbers is serious enough in itself. What matters to those of us at the workface in the polytechnics, and for which we turn to *The THES*, is right now, funding. That and that alone will determine at the end of the day which

The Nanyang Technological Institute is scheduled to become a fully-fledged technological university by 1985, and not 1985 as reported.

It is never intended that among the first year students, those with best grades remain at the National University of Singapore. In actual fact, the students are given the freedom to indicate their preferences, but there is a quota of a quarter of the students remaining in NUS. So far, two batches of students have been streamed and the statistics show that 37 per cent of the top quarter of the students have opted for their own free choice, decided to pursue a course in NUS. The reason is merely that they recognise that the training at NUS will be more appropriate to their future careers in the industries.

I hope you will notify readers of the errors in a subsequent issue.

Yours faithfully,
DR CHAM TAO SOON,
President,
Nanyang Technological Institute,
Singapore.

of us still has a job. I am sure we are also pondering on numbers of students, but there will be more than enough time to worry about that when we are standing in the dole queue.

If Mr Bevan feels that any issue but funding is at the heart of all our immediate worries then he is very sadly mistaken.

Yours,
THAD. GREEN,
Ferry Road,
Havling Island,
Hants.

Select chairmen

Sir, - In his otherwise informative article on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee (*THES*, August 19) Walter Little made one important mistake. Select committee chairmanships are not "always held by a member of the Government party." No fewer than seven of the 14 new committees established in 1979 were chaired by Opposi-

tion backbenchers (Education Science and Arts; Employment; Environment; Social Services; Transport; Scottish Affairs; Welsh Affairs). In addition, the foreign affairs and treasury and Civil Service sub-committees had Opposition chairmen.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE EPPER,
Leeds University.

Union Views on the NAB recommendations

A recipe for disaster

There are many laudable aspects of local authority education: its responsiveness to community need, imaginative developments to improve access and opportunity, and innovative new ideas in curriculum development. Most of all it is controlled by authorities directly elected by and accountable to local population. It is of course far from perfect. However, there is an acknowledgment by most local authorities of a need to expand and improve the service which they offer.

What a tragedy therefore, that the National Advisory Body, rather than argue the case for higher education, should have taken the view that, having chosen instead to comply with and execute almost every ministerial whim and dictat.

The NAB's proposals for individual institutions may be dressed up in the sleek language of rationalization but reading between the euphemisms it is clear to us that they are neither smart, sensible nor concerned with improving education. They are a recipe for short-term catastrophes, and the long-term decline of the public sector of higher education.

We are told also that 10,000 student places are to go. This is an unwelcome figure based on a rather dubious assumption that a demand for higher education will remain constant. If anything, demand is likely to rise significantly, as the dole queue increasingly provides the only alternative to those considering higher education, and the squeeze in the number of university places continues. Thus the effect would be to slam the doors of opportunity in the face of qualified young people and to deny them the ability to develop their potential. They will be cheated of the places which they were promised and which their parents have already paid for. Stuck in dead-end jobs or on the dole they will be destined to join the generation which the education service has lost in the 1980s.

The NAB proposals amount to a blatant attack on the arts and social sciences. They seem determined to give practical effect to the technocratic inspirations of the Government, and those who believe our education service should increasingly become the servant of the corporate economy. They plan to cut the number of entrants to humanities by 12 per cent and



to decrease the resources allocated to such courses relative to others. The result will be a distortion of the subject balance in the public sector curriculum and a further degrading of some of the most interesting and challenging areas of study. Moreover, this selective attack on individual subjects will hit women particularly badly, since it is these areas that exhibit the least bias in their participation.

It is not only opportunity which will decline. Inherent in the NAB's plans is an assumed decay in the quality of educational provision in the public sector. A 14 per cent cut in the money spent for students will mean fewer teaching resources, overcrowded classes and less face-to-face contact between tutor and student. The breadth of education will suffer as options within courses disappear and as the potential for innovation in the curriculum and teaching methods evaporates. The Government seems determined to widen further the binary divide and create a second-class sector of higher education.

We have been told that the choice is between numbers and standards. There is however, a third choice for the Government to review and change its policy towards higher education. The NAB proposals illustrate one thing above all else, that it is not possible to provide the type of higher education system the people of this country want and need with the amount of money the Government is prepared to spend. It must now be clear that the only way to protect the quality of and opportunity for higher education is to inject more money into the "pool". We hope that Keith Joseph shares this view and that he is as prepared to fight as hard for his patch as it appears his Cabinet colleagues are for theirs.

Tommy Sheppard

The author is vice president (education) of the National Union of Students.

Now give us the money

natfhe

at pool allocations. There may be some rational explanation for this, but if there is, it is quite hidden from most of us.

First the Government must inform the NAB that there will be more money available.

Second, it is imperative that the NAB sorts out the mess it appears to have got itself into about financial allocation.

If the NAB is serious about planning public sector education, then policy must dictate resource allocation, not vice versa and if the system which is used at present does not achieve that, then a different system must be found and fast.

The work of the Technical and Data Group is no doubt a miracle of statistical achievement. Unfortunately the outcome of this work is quite incomprehensible to people in institutions and local authorities who have to live with the results. Too often the allocations appear to be completely irrational and the methodology is so complex that even those who have a good understanding of financial matters become completely bemused.

This is simply not good enough and if the NAB's sophisticated formulae are incapable of producing a more rational distribution then it should be scrapped and the NAB should try using instead the judgment and common sense of the members of the board and committees. It is difficult to see how they could do worse.

Jean Bocock

The author is assistant secretary (higher education) of the National Union of Teachers. In Further and Higher Education.